

Hafa Adai!

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Flags at half-staff for Bush 41

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The 41st U.S. President died last Friday in his home in Houston, Texas. He was 94.

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog directed all U.S. and CNMI flags in the Commonwealth to be lowered to half-staff in honor and as a mark of respect for the passing of former President George H.W. Bush.

RELATED NEWS

► **Former President George H.W. Bush dies at age 94.**
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President Donald Trump also declared Dec. 5 as a National Day of Mourning, during which all executive departments and agencies of the federal government will be closed.

See **FLAGS** on **Page 4**

Thu Ton, of Dallas, places flowers at the base of a statue of former President George H.W. Bush outside the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum Saturday, Dec. 1, 2018, in College Station.

AP

DNAP extended a week

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The assistance distributions and processing for Disaster Nutritional Assistance Program has been extended a week, with thousands yet to be assessed for eligibility.

DNAP application and distributions were supposed to end last Saturday, Dec. 1, but this has been extended to Dec. 7.

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter told *Saipan Tribune* over the

See **DNAP** on **Page 4**

Lower FAC charge in Dec.



The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has been notified by its fuel supplier, Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc., that there has been a decrease in the average international fuel prices, which will affect the fuel adjustment charge.

As a result, the current FAC rate of \$0.24131 per kWh will decrease to

See **LOWER** on **Page 4**



Man allegedly attempts to jump off bldg.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

A 36-year-old man allegedly attempted to jump off a three-story building in Chalan Kanoa last Saturday because of allegations that he sexually assaulted an 11-year-old girl.

Last Saturday, Jordan Tudela, a 36-year-old Palauan/Chamorro male, attempted to jump off a three-story

See **MAN** on **Page 4**

Thirty-six-year-old Jordan Tudela attempts to jump off a three-story building in Chalan Kanoa as Department of Public Safety officers persuade him to reconsider.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

INSIDE



LOCAL

It has been a little over a month since Typhoon Yutu devastated Saipan and Tinian.

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Ukraine says Russia is building up its land forces and weapons along the border.

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LIFE & STYLE

In need of a jolt of holiday joy? Or a comforting spot of romance or silliness?

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Local

NMI govt offices resume normal hours

All government offices in the Commonwealth will resume regular operational hours starting today, Dec. 3, 2018, from 7:30am to 4:30pm.

Employees not engaged in first responder activities or emergency relief and recovery efforts

are directed to report for work at their normally scheduled times.

All non-critical personnel, who cannot make it to work must notify their immediate supervisor and apply for personal leave. **(PR)**

Torres in Tokyo for Skymark signing

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is in Tokyo, Japan to join officials from the Marianas Visitors Authority in attending the formal signing of an airline incentive agreement between Skymark Airlines and the CNMI.

Torres and first lady Diann were set to return to Saipan

last Friday, but he later decided to witness the signing of the agreement.

Negotiations between the CNMI and Skymark officials began in May of this year. "This partnership is part of Gov. Torres' priority to revitalize the Japan market and reestablish eco-

nomie and cultural relationships between the people of Japan and the Marianas," the administration said in a statement.

More details of the agreement will be made available in the coming days.

Skymark is Japan's third largest carrier. **(Jon Perez)**

Asiana resumes this month, T'Way starts in March

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Jeju Air's resumption of international flights to the CNMI is another great step forward in the recovery of the islands' tourism industry following the onslaught of Super Typhoon Yutu last month, according to Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion.

Concepcion said Korea remains the CNMI's No. 1 source market and Jeju Air is the first airline to resume flights from Korea after Super Typhoon Yutu's destruction last Oct. 24 and 25.

"We applaud them and thank them for their efforts and support. We still have a long way to go for all flights to resume regular service from Korea," he told *Saipan Tribune* over the weekend.

Before Yutu, Jeju Air operated two daily flights from Seoul and one from Busan, Concepcion said, so this is only the first step for them.

"They will resume their nighttime flight from Seoul and Busan in the coming months so we eagerly antici-

pate that happening soon," he said.

South Korea, the CNMI's top market in tourist arrivals, is back as Jeju Air resumed international flights to Saipan, arriving at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport last Tuesday afternoon with 168 passengers. Jeju Air came from Incheon, South Korea.

MVA marketing manager Thomas Kim said the CNMI should see the numbers of visitors grow rapidly under the Korea market.

Concepcion disclosed that Asiana Airlines will resume flights later this month, while T'Way will return to the CNMI in March 2019. T'Way is a low-cost Korean airline that started offering daily flights to and from Korea in 2016.

"We are doing our best to push behind the scenes to have them resume [as soon as possible]," said Concepcion, adding that the CNMI's economy relies heavily on tourism; without flights there is no industry to speak of.

Concepcion said the MVA and their partners are working overtime to get things back to

normal as quickly as possible. "It's been very challenging but we are seeing positive results thus far. The CNMI is resilient and we will get through this one day at a time. I have no doubt," he said.

Jeju Air joins Sichuan Airlines, which resumed international flights to the CNMI last Tuesday, arriving at the Saipan airport from Guangzhou, China.

China Eastern Airlines also resumed international flights last Wednesday, from Beijing, China.

Beijing Capital Airlines resumed flights last Thursday afternoon from Hangzhou, China.

Hong Kong Airlines resumed flights last Thursday midnight, from Hong Kong. Sichuan Airlines' flight also arrived Thursday morning from Shanghai, China.

HK Express was the first commercial airline to resume international flights to the CNMI after Super Typhoon Yutu's destruction on Saipan and Tinian last Oct. 24 and 25. The airline arrived on Saipan last Nov. 23 with a full load of 180 passengers.

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Ayuda starts Christmas toy drive for CNMI children

The Ayuda Foundation has started a Christmas toy drive for the children of the CNMI, who are still suffering from the devastation wrought by Super Typhoon Yutu in October.

The foundation started the toy drive because of the realization that Guam's suffering brothers and sisters in the north will be having a very difficult holiday season ahead, with many areas still without power and many people without jobs and sources of revenue due to the impact of the typhoon.

"We came out with the idea for a toy drive because many of our families, friends, and neighbors in the CNMI are not just struggling to meet the de-

mands of day-to-day life due to the lingering effects of Super Typhoon Yutu, but also struggling financially and logistically with how they might provide a gift or two for their children on Christmas Day," said Ayuda board member Frank Blas Jr.

"If you contribute to the Ayuda Foundation Christmas toy drive, many children in the CNMI will find a gift waiting under their Christmas tree this year," Blas added.

Among the most vulnerable victims of the super typhoon in the CNMI are the children who not only lost many of their possessions (including toys) but also face the prospect of a bleak Christmas due to typhoon damage.

"Every child deserves to experience the joy of Christmas morning. The smile of a child is priceless, which comes with precious and unforgettable memories. Let us help Super Typhoon Yutu affected pre-school and elementary children celebrate Christmas by donating brand new toys to the Ayuda Foundation's CNMI Christmas toy drive," said Sen. James V. Espaldon, another Ayuda board member.

Toy donations can be dropped off at all BankPacific branches, Island Girl Power (Dededo) or at the Ayuda Foundation office at Suite 207, Carl Rose Building, 181 East Marine Corps Drive in Agaña. (PR)

Expanded Disaster Recovery Center hours on Tinian

Since last Saturday, the Disaster Recovery Center on Tinian started offering expanded hours.

The Tinian DRC, which is located at the Department of Commerce, is open from 9am to 6pm, Monday through Friday, and from 10am to 4pm on Saturday.

The Tinian Disaster Recovery Center will not be open on Sundays.

The Saipan Disaster Recovery Center hours will remain unchanged.

DRCs provide residents an opportunity to meet face-to-face with representatives with Federal Emergency

Management Agency and the U.S. Small Business Administration to receive answers to questions about temporary housing, home repairs, replacement of damaged personal property, home and business recovery funding, and other disaster-related needs.

Survivors who are insured, uninsured, or underinsured are encouraged to register with FEMA.

FEMA grants may be used to replace destroyed essential items. FEMA grants and SBA loans may be able to help cover survivors' uninsured or underinsured damaged prop-

erty. If an applicant is insured, s/he is strongly encouraged to first file a claim with their insurance company, and then register for disaster assistance with FEMA. If applicants are referred to SBA for a loan application, it is very important that they follow through.

Eligible applicants can register for assistance by calling: (800) 621-3362, or applying online at: disasterassistance.gov. The TTY number is 1-800-462-7585 for those who are speech or hearing-impaired. Survivors may use the center's phone banks and computers. (PR)

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December 24, 2018
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Christmas Eve Special Set Menu

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6:00pm - 10:00pm
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NMC resumes classes today at SSHS

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College would resume classes for the fall 2018 semester at Saipan Southern High School starting today.

Only the afternoon, evening, and Saturday classes of the college are affected by the new schedule, according to a college announcement over

the weekend.

Super Typhoon Yutu in late October forced the college to shut down temporarily.

In an announcement on their social media page, NMC noted that classes would open from Dec. 3, 2018 to Dec. 15. A holiday break from Dec. 17 through Jan. 5 would follow, with final exams week on Feb. 4, 2019 through Feb. 9, 2019.

Morning classes would be

starting on Jan. 7, 2019.

While the announcement is already stated in their social media page, NMC warns that all of the dates are subject to sudden change.

The NMC Spring 2019 semester would be set back a few months, starting from Feb. 18, 2019, through Feb. 23, 2019, for the first week of instruction. Classes are expected to continue until April

15, 2019 through April 20, 2019, where NMC would go on spring break.

May 27, 2019 through June 1, 2019, would be the last week of instruction for the 2019 NMC spring semester, while final exam week follows right after from June 3, 2019 through June 8, 2019.

For more information on classroom assignments, contact NMC at 285-7651 or 285-2059.

PSS classes resume

The Public School System is set to open its campuses with some schools resuming on Dec. 3 and others on Dec. 10.

Dr. Bobby Cruz, acting PSS public information officer, said, "PSS is excited to open its schools to help students return to a sense of normalcy, continue learning, receive social-emotional support and have daily nutritious meals."

The public is encouraged to visit the CNMI PSS Facebook page to review details on the class resumptions. Parents and guardians should identify their child's school opening date and schedule, either a full day, double session or half-day. The bell and busing schedules are also included.

In discussing how each school will run, Cruz noted:

"Full-day schools experienced minimal damage and have the classroom capacity to support their population and have electricity and water. Schools that sustained moderate to severe damage use double sessions to maximize usable classrooms. The student population at each school will be divided with one group attending in the morning and with the other group running in the afternoon. Other schools will run half-day until power and water are restored and damage repaired. Marianas High School and Hopwood Junior High School will share the MHS campus, with HJHS using MHS in the morning and MHS running in the afternoon. Da'ok Academy has been relocated to the

Northern Marianas Trades Academy.

For more information, inquiries or for help about the school resumption, parents and guardians are encouraged to contact their child's school office. Parents may also visit

the Office of the Commissioner of Education on Capitol Hill, Building Number 1211 or call 664-3845 or email info@cnmipss.org. You can also visit the CNMI PSS Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/cnmipss/>. (PR)

Banes cited for reckless driving

Lawyer David George Banes is facing a traffic case after being cited by a police officer for reckless driving along Dandan Road.

Banes, 55, appeared pro se or without a lawyer before Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja last Oct. 4. Assistant attorney general Jonathan Robert Glass represented the government, according to court documents.

Banes waived the reading of the charge and pleaded not guilty.

As of press time, *Saipan Tribune* was awaiting comments from the lawyer.

Naraja set a status conference for Dec. 6 at 1:30pm.

Reckless driving is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$1,000 or six months imprisonment or both.

It was Police Officer L. Lizama who issued the citation last Sept. 3. Banes was allegedly recklessly driving a red Toyota vehicle on Dandan Road at about 4:30pm. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

FLAGS

From Page 1

Hocog issued the proclamation yesterday to lower CNMI flags following Trump's executive order to lower all U.S. flags in the White House, all public buildings and grounds, military posts, and naval stations and vessels.

All American flags in federal government agencies in Washington, D.C., the entire continental U.S., and its territories and possessions will be flown at half-staff for 30 days starting from Bush's death on Nov. 30.

The President has also directed that the American flag be flown at half-staff at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who is in Japan for an official trip, remembers Bush as an unselfish leader and a humble man during his seven decades of service as a naval pilot and later as a government official.

"He was an accomplished entrepreneur and a tireless public servant. He thought of the nation first, leaving his university studies to volunteer for combat duty during World War II, in which he flew 58

combat missions as the youngest aviator in U.S. naval history at the time," Torres said in a statement.

"Lt. Go. Hocog and I extend our families' sympathies and the condolences of the Commonwealth to the Bush family, as well as to the people of this great country that we are proud to be part of as we mourn his passing."

Bush was one of the U.S. Navy's youngest pilots. He flew combat missions in the Pacific theatre and survived being shot down by enemy fire.

He returned home after the war and moved his family to Texas to start a business, where he created new jobs within the oil industry. His passion for service led him to go into politics, beginning as a member of U.S. Congress.

Bush became the GOP chair, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, the Central Intelligence Agency director during the Cold War, U.S. envoy to China, and Vice President to former President Ronald Reagan before becoming President in 1989.

Bush visited the CNMI when he was the country's 43rd Vice President and met with former governor Pedro P. Tenorio and other Micronesian leaders on Saipan in October 1985 to tour the island's World War II memorials and

other battle sites.

Torres recalled Bush's words during his 1989 inaugural address: "Our problems are large, but our heart is larger. Our challenges are great, but our will is greater. And if our flaws are endless, God's love is truly boundless."

Torres said that phrase from Bush is timely in the CNMI's recovery efforts after two destructive typhoons. "May we here in the Marianas look to that level of wisdom and optimism as we move forward in our recovery efforts from Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu."

Day of mourning

Although Dec. 5 has been declared a day of mourning, Trump said that heads of executive agencies would determine which offices and installations would remain open, and assign employees who would report for duty, based on national security, defense, and other public needs.

Amata Radewagen, American Samoa's non-voting Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, also honored Bush's life and service.

"He was a great man. I was blessed to know him, and to see personally how he radiated a sense of kindness when I spoke with him. Americans always sensed that goodness

about him, and the nation has loved him throughout his retirement years," Radewagen said in a statement.

"He lived a widely admired life that was full of historic accomplishments, but also a consistent life of decency, dignity, humility and a quiet but deeply-rooted faith. He loved his friends and family, and valued people. He was good to American Samoa, and many of our veterans served when he was commander-in-chief."

She recalled when Bush commended High Chief Pulu's daughter Faiva Ae in giving her the Point of Light Award, based on the former President's call for everyone to be part of the thousand points of light in making the world a better place.

Radewagen also remembered Bush's responsibility of leading during the fall of the Berlin Wall and the reunification of Germany. "And the great advancement of human freedom represented by that event. He also led the world in unprecedented unity to free Kuwait from the aggression of Iraq's dictatorial regime."

"History will regard him highly as an honorable leader in the historic years when our nation transitioned out of the Cold War. From the time he was a young man, he served with unquestionable patriotism."

LOWER

From Page 1

\$0.21246 per kWh effective Dec. 1, 2018.

Residential customers who use 500 kWh of power per month will pay approximately \$14.43 less in their monthly billing.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC electric kWh rate, which is used to purchase fuel. The second component is the CUC base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt service. This base rate has not been increased since April 17, 2014.

CUC is required, pursuant to an order previously issued

by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, to adjust (up or down) the FAC pass-through rate when the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5 percent differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate.

CUC first instituted the levelized energy adjustment clause in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel related costs, a system also used by power providers in Guam and the Virgin Islands. In May 2015, the CPUC authorized CUC to change the name of LEAC to FAC to provide customers a more accurate description of the electric rate. (CUC)

MAN

From Page 1

building in Chalan Kanoa.

At the scene, friends and family members of Tudela who were present said that he was thinking of ways to escape allegations pertaining to him sexually assaulting an 11-year-old girl.

According to a source, the Department of Youth Services is currently investigating the allegations against Tudela.

Neighbors that surrounded the scene also shared that Tudela had been drinking heavily during the day up until he attempted jumping off the building.

After nearly four hours, law enforcement officers were able to talk Tudela out of jumping. They arrested him at the scene and brought him to Department of Corrections.

At the scene, dozens of Department of Public Safety of-

ficers and Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services officers were on standby.

Tudela's wife and brother talked him out of jumping.

According to numerous passersby, Tudela had been up on the building since 5:30pm and remained there up until 9pm.

For nearly four hours, massive traffic congestion was observed as police blocked off the entire road, starting from the Chalan Piao intersection up to the stoplight turning into the post office.

Witnesses at the scene said that Tudela is a former Department of Corrections officer. A reader insists he is actually a former inmate. Department of Public Safety officers at the scene declined to clarify this with the *Saipan Tribune*.

The *Saipan Tribune's* attempts to get a statement from DPS have been declined and no public report has been issued about the incident as of 5:40pm yesterday.

DNAP

From Page 1

weekend that the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Nutrition Services approved extending DNAP processing and distribution by another week only last Friday afternoon.

The Torres administration affirmed Hunter's statement in a separate announcement Saturday evening

The new schedule for DNAP distributions and assessments suggests that 1,699 are expected to be processed every day from Sunday onwards.

DNAP numbers D09101 to D10800 would be processed today; D10801 to D12500 tomorrow; D12501 to D14200 on Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018; D14201 to D15900 on Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018; and D15901 to D17600 and over on Friday, Dec. 7, 2018.

"Everyone is going to be entertained," Hunter told *Saipan Tribune*. "If for some

reason we cannot process everybody, then we are going to ask for an additional extension [from the FNS]."

DCCA administers the Nutritional Assistance Program, which oversees the DNAP distributions.

"We will continue to provide disaster assistance to every impacted resident, as well as provide supplemental food assistance to our NAP recipients," stated a Torres administration statement. "This emergency food assistance was a big priority for us, because we know that it will help alleviate the stresses of recovery."

DNAP processing was initially scheduled to end last Saturday, Dec. 1, 2018; however, the scheduled numbers for appointment were only for D06401 to D07400. In a previous interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Hunter said that it was "likely" that DNAP processing and assessments would continue beyond the schedule last Saturday.

SBA outreach center on Rota to close

The U.S. Small Business Administration's Disaster Field Operations Center-West will close its Rota Disaster Loan Outreach Center on Thursday, Dec. 6, at 4:30pm.

"Until the center closes, SBA customer service representatives will continue to be available to meet with businesses and residents to answer their questions, explain SBA's disaster loan program and close their approved disaster loans," said director Tanya N. Garfield.

SBA opened the center to provide personalized assistance to Rota businesses and residents who were affected by the Typhoon Mangkhut that occurred Sept. 10-11, 2018 and Super Typhoon Yutu that occurred Oct. 24-26, 2018.

Until Thursday, businesses

and residents can meet with SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Center representatives at the Rota Mayor's Office, Mondays – Fridays, 7:30am - 4:30pm. No appointment is necessary. The center will close at 4:30pm this Thursday, Dec. 6.

So far, SBA has approved more than \$1.3 million in low-interest disaster loans to businesses and homeowners throughout the CNMI as a result of Typhoon Mangkhut; and more than \$11.3 million as a result of damage caused by Super Typhoon Yutu.

Businesses of all sizes and private nonprofit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million.

For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private

nonprofit organizations of any size, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital.

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property.

Interest rates can be as low as 3.675 percent for businesses, 2.5 percent for private nonprofit organizations and 2 percent for homeowners and renters with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition.

Applicants may apply online, receive additional disaster assistance information and

download applications at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. Individuals who are deaf or hardofhearing may call (800) 877-8339. Completed applications should be mailed to U.S. Small Business Administra-

tion, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The deadline to apply for property damage is Jan. 27, 2019, for both Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu. The deadline to apply for economic injury applications is July 1, 2019, for Typhoon Mangkhut and July 27 for Super Typhoon Yutu. **(PR)**

MVA meeting reset to Dec. 14

The Marianas Visitors Authority's semi-annual general membership meeting originally scheduled for November has been rescheduled to Dec. 14, at 10am at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Guest speakers from the MVA's offshore offices will provide a recap of fiscal year 2018 projects and the MVA's marketing plans for fiscal year 2019, including post-typhoon recovery plans. Speakers will be the in-country managers: Irene Lee, Korea market; Florence

Shi, China market; and Takashi Ichikura, Japan market.

"In recovering from the impact of Super Typhoon Yutu, we will need to revisit our marketing strategies and other plans for the coming months," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "It's safe to say that our marketing efforts will be impacted tremendously due to the loss of visitors during the latter part of October and first three weeks of November, which translate to less hotel occupancy taxes

being collected by the government. December's general membership meeting will provide an opportunity to learn what those anticipated changes will be, and equally important, how we can continue to collaborate as tourism partners within and outside the Marianas to deliver an even higher-quality destination for our visitors."

Admission is \$20 for MVA members and \$25 for non-members. RSVP by emailing MVA Community Projects Division at communityprojects@mymarianas.com or calling 664-3210. **(PR)**

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-18-032



Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 Mega Watt Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3 Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format or USB Drive, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-18-032, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than January 3, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors. All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 14, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org, CUC-Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-19-001



Repair of CUC Power Plant No. 2 Building Structure, Lower Base, Saipan, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Repair of CUC Power Plant No. 2 Building Structure, Saipan, Lower Base, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The work includes replacement of various building elements which were damaged due to the Typhoon Soudelor and also additional work required to strengthen the facility for improving its integrity with a view of withstanding elements of nature. CUC has performed partial work under an ongoing contract with another contractor.

This project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from the above mentioned funding agencies.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **150 calendar days** from the date of issuance of the Notice to Proceed.

Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$150.00 for one RFP package set.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be scheduled on **December 18, 2018 at 10:00 am (ChST)**, at the power plant conference room, followed by a site visit. All attendees are required to arrive with appropriate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). **The attendance in the conference and site visit is mandatory to ensure that the parties are fully familiar with the existing site conditions.**

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-19-001 - Repair of CUC Power Plant No. 2 Building Structure, Saipan, Lower Base, CNMI"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 4, 2019**. Late submissions and conditional Proposals will not be considered. Proposal shall be submitted on the provided Proposal Forms. Proposers are required to complete all Proposal Forms. Proposers may supplement the form as appropriate. Proposals will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 90 days after submission.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total Proposal price must accompany the Proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or Proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total Proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposers. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsive offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 19, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email - manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Project Manager - via email venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Senior Purchasing Assistant via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and waive any imperfection in the Proposal in the best interest of the government. All Proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-19-002



LEASE OF OFFICE SPACE FOR CUC ROTA ADMINISTRATION & OPERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms for the lease of office space for CUC Administration and Operation, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed office space must conform to American Disabilities Act (ADA), OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulation.

The RFP package may be obtained at the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section (Saipan, Tinian or Rota), by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$20.00 for one RFP package set. The RFP package will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered Proponents email ID. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division to be considered.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-19-002, Lease of Office Space for CUC Rota Administration & Operation" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 7, 2019**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 21, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christie Sablan, Senior Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-19-007, REV.1

Restoration of Electric Power Distribution System on Saipan Following Super Typhoon Yutu

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced contractors to design, restore and commission (including without limitation all design, engineering, supervision, materials procurement and mobilization, installation, testing, commissioning and handover) of its power distribution system on Saipan as more fully described in the Statement of Work.

The solicitation seeks proposals from legally recognized business entities authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (or which will be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth before execution of the agreement) to restore and rebuild its electric power distribution grid on Saipan.

The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided emailed to the interested parties upon request, or may be downloaded from www.cucgov.org/procurement/available-bids-and-rfp/. Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A mandatory Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **November 27, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. A site survey of the affected areas by Prospective Proposers is highly recommended. Prospective Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions and do their own preliminary assessments prior to submitting the proposal. A site survey of affected areas will be provided upon request to CUC, Power T&D Division. Please email Power Division Manager, Lee Lieto via email address lee.lieto@cucgov.org for scheduling.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-19-007, REV.1 - RESTORATION OF ELECTRIC POWER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM ON SAIPAN FOLLOWING SUPER TYPHOON YUTU"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than November 30, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible Proposers who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing Proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility for any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due in whole or in part to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under any anticipated contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including without limitation any and all excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws. In particular, Contractors will be required to execute a contract which contains required provisions in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.326 and which are set forth in Exhibit D to the Contract which is included the RFP package.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

Proposers are advised that this project is being procured as an emergency procurement under the authority of the Hon. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres pursuant to 1 CMC §20144 (c) and the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and that ordinary procurement regulations do not apply. Time is of the essence in order to restore power to the people of Saipan. As such, no protests will be entertained.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

CDA asks for more time to respond to defamation suit

The Commonwealth Development Authority has again asked the federal court for more time to respond to a defamation lawsuit filed by the wife of Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja against Bank of Hawaii.

CDA counsel Mark Scoggins said that, as previously explained, Charity Hodson and her law office will be taking over as CDA counsel in this matter due to a conflict for his law office.

In CDA's motion to extend time for the third time filed last Monday, Scoggins said they understand that the U.S. District Court for the NMI may have concerns about the delay. However, Scoggins said, Hodson's contract for CDA only completed the procurement routing process last Monday.

"This process has been entirely outside the control of CDA, the Scoggins Law Office, and the Law Office of Charity Hodson," he said.

He said CDA and its counsel have worked to get this issue resolved so the case can move forward.

Scoggins said Hodson will need time to come up to speed on this matter, and so one additional week is being asked. This would make CDA's response to the complaint in this matter due today, Dec. 3.

The court previously okayed CDA's two requests for more time to respond. CDA's deadline for a response was last Monday.

Scoggins cited that Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provides that when prior to the expiration of the time by which an act must be done, the court may grant a request for postponement "for good cause."

He said they have made attempts to contact the lawyer for Frances DLG Naraja and for the Bank of Hawaii, but have not gotten a response as of the filing.

Scoggins said both attor-

neys have, however, been understanding and accommodating in the past and they do not believe the other parties will be prejudiced by one final delay.

Hodson filed on Monday a notice informing the court that she has substituted for Scoggins as counsel for CDA in this case.

Frances Naraja is suing BOH for allegedly refusing to honor her eight cashier's checks in the total amount of \$290,000 that she had purchased in 2016, but then telling all the other banks on Saipan that she had improperly secured the cashier's checks.

Aside from defamation, Frances Naraja, through counsel William M. Fitzgerald, is also suing BOH for allegedly dishonoring the cashier's check and conversion.



Scoggins

Frances Naraja asked the Superior Court to order for the return of \$290,000, represented by the cashier's checks, with prejudgment interest from the date of their dishonor. She also sought for payment of damages.

She filed the lawsuit in the local court last July 13. But last Aug. 17, BOH, through counsel Sean Frink, filed a notice for the removal of the lawsuit to the District Court.

BOH then filed an answer

to Mrs. Naraja's complaint. The bank also filed a counterclaim against Mrs. Naraja and third-party claims against Gloria DLG Sablan, CDA, and the Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero Family Trust.

Sablan is Mrs. Naraja's sister. According to Frink in the counterclaims and third-party claims, BOH simply seeks to join all of the potentially interested parties in one action so that their rights and responsibilities to the \$290,000 can be determined.

Frink said Joaquin Deleon Guerrero and his wife declared

bankruptcy, claiming that the true owner of the \$290,000 is and was the Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero Family Trust.

He said Joaquin Deleon Guerrero has made similar claims in the Superior Court proceedings in which the CDA was pursuing his (Joaquin) assets in order to enforce a \$400,000-plus judgment.

Frink said it was in these same actions that the CDA caused the Superior Court to issue writs that directed that the \$290,000 be deposited with the Superior Court. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

UOG dean is elected as director on Agriculture Assembly board

Dr. Lee S. Yudin, dean/director of the University of Guam's College of Natural & Applied Sciences, was elected to serve on the 2019 policy board of directors for the board on Agriculture Assembly. Yudin will specifically serve as the insular/territorial institutions director.



Yudin

board of directors. A listing of the 2019 policy board of directors can be found on the board on Agriculture Assembly page of www.aplu.org. The actions of the policy board of directors may be tracked through their minutes and section reports posted there.

About

The UOG's Cooperative Extension & Outreach program works to increase collaborations between the public and government agencies, private entities, and non-gov-

ernmental organizations. Its partnerships foster its mission of extending research-based knowledge through outreach education programs for positive engagement of individuals and communities. It specializes in agriculture and natural resources, consumer and family sciences, 4-H youth development, and community development. *(UOG)*

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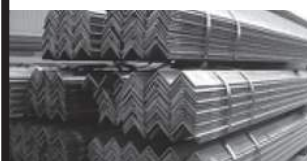
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All UOG nursing grads pass national licensure exam

All 30 graduates from the University of Guam's nursing program in the Class of 2018 passed the National Council Licensure Examination on their first time taking the exam, the UOG School of Nursing & Health Sciences announced last week.

The NCLEX is the standardized test nursing graduates must take to become registered nurses.

"It is an outstanding achievement and a testament to the quality education our UOG Triton nurses receive," said Margaret Hattori-Uchima, dean of the School of Nursing & Health Sciences.

This marks the third consecutive year that the program has achieved a 100-percent first-time pass rate and the fifth time overall, the other years being 2003 and 2010.

The program's pass rate surpasses the national average for U.S.-educated baccalaureate degree program graduates, which is 92.18 percent to date, and the international average, which is 43.98 percent.

"This achievement is the product of dedicated faculty, motivated students, and a supportive community, and



we are very proud to say that our nursing graduates are not only excelling here at UOG, but among their national and international counterparts as well," said UOG president Thomas W. Krise.

Most of UOG's 2018 nursing graduates are now employed at the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority and Guam Regional Medical City, Hattori-Uchima said, and two, who were military dependents, have gone off island.

Many factors contribute to the program's successful pass rates, Hattori-Uchima said, including support from the UOG administration and an annual financial contribution from TakeCare Insurance Co.

The program also prepares students by offering online and in-classroom NCLEX reviews, mentored clinical

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
University of Guam nursing program graduates from the Class of 2018. From left, Mariana Sizemore, Herdel Kent B. Hermosura, Teresa Harris, Regine R. Dela Montanye, Kamille De Leon, and Crystalline Cristobal.

practice opportunities over the summer at GMHA, and faculty mentors for each student who provide ongoing coaching and support.

"The faculty have mentored the students for the NCLEX for the past three years, and students report that this is critical to their success," Hattori-Uchima said. "The program also continuously assesses the curriculum to ensure students are well-prepared to pass the exam and to be safe and competent nurses."

The next cohort of nursing graduates, which has 32 students, is anticipated to graduate in May.

For more information on the UOG Bachelor of Nursing program, visit www.uog.edu/snhs. (UOG)

GRMC performs 9 successful open-heart surgeries in Nov.

DEDEDO, Guam—Nine open-heart surgeries were performed successfully at the Guam Regional Medical City between Nov. 13 and 19, 2018, by cardiothoracic surgeon Noel Concepcion, M.D. The doctor returned to Guam from Modesto, California, along with his team, to conduct the lifesaving surgeries and continue to train GRMC staff.

These procedures count toward a total of 17 open-heart surgeries that GRMC has performed since 2015.

Concepcion performed an initial four procedures when GRMC first opened before issues with H-2 nurses forced the open-heart program to shut down temporarily. In August 2018, the program was revived, and the doctor performed another four successful procedures.

One of the recent patients was Edwin Hocog, who had originally been scheduled to travel to the Philippines for open-heart surgery at St. Luke's Medical Center Global City. "When I first heard about Dr. Concepcion, I was thrilled that he was coming to Guam. He had done surgery for my friend and he told me Dr. Concepcion was very good," said Hocog. "I felt very blessed to have him do it, so I cancelled my surgery in the Philippines. It was most important to have my family around me."

GRMC chief medical officer Dr. Felix Cabrera is very

familiar with Hocog and his history, having been his primary doctor. "Mr. Hocog's successful surgery and recovery is representative of GRMC's commitment to reducing the radius that patients and their families have to travel for critical medical needs, thanks to GRMC's specialized technology, equipment, and staff," said Cabrera. "I know Mr. Hocog and his family well from my time as his primary care physician. He speaks with the cheer and

passion of a man with a new lease on life. That's because his heart literally got one. It's also because he did it with one of the most important medicines we have, which is a daily dosing of love from his family, given in person."

GRMC expects Concepcion again in January 2019 and hopes to have him join the hospital on a permanent basis thereafter. Open-heart surgery is a key component of GRMC's cardiac care, en-

» Cardiothoracic surgeon Noel Concepcion returns



Cardiothoracic surgeon Noel Concepcion, M.D. and his team perform open-heart surgery at the Guam Regional Medical City.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Guam Guard troop gets new commander

Lt. Col. Christopher Camacho took the helm of the Guam Army National Guard's 105th Troop Command during a ceremony last Saturday, Dec. 1, at the Guard's Readiness Center in Barrigada.

The 105th Troop Command is the only Brigade level Command within the Guam Army National Guard. It was activated on Oct. 1, 2002, to manage combat support and combat service units of the rapidly growing Guam Guard.

The 105th Troop Command provides logistical and administrative support for units not structured under another formation headquarters, such as the 721st Army Band, the 1224th Engineer Support Company, the Hotel Forward Support Company, and Detachment 2, Delta Company, 1st-224th Aviation Regiment.

Col. Michael A. Tougher has been commander of the 105th Troop Command since March 2015. (PR)

Year-end celebration on Dec. 29

On Dec. 29, the Marianas Visitors Authority and its tourism partners will host the Marianas Strong Year-end Celebration at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan, from 5pm to 10pm. The celebration will also be highlighted by the Mochitsuki Festival, featuring the Japan tradition of rice pounding in preparation for the new year. The Christmas

in the Marianas celebration, previously scheduled for Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2018, is cancelled. For more information, visit www.mymarianas.com or contact the MVA at info@mymarianas.com or 1.670.664.3200/1. (PR)

Saipan chamber meeting this Dec.

The December membership meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan on Wednesday, Dec. 5. Lunch will begin at 11:30am and the meeting will follow promptly at 12pm. Guest speakers are still being confirmed. (PR)

ROE deadline is Dec. 8

The CNMI is implementing this temporary emergency tent and roofing installation program, called Temporary Emergency Tent and Roofing Installation Support program. The Federal Emergency Management Agency is funding and coordinating the efforts of U.S. Department of Defense partners.

The CNMI is the sole entity determining who will receive tents. To apply for the program, residents must complete a Right of Entry form. ROEs may be obtained by visiting the FEMA Saipan Disaster Recovery Center at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe or Fire Station 4 in Koblerville. For questions, on Saipan, call: (670) 664-9083. The deadline for ROE submissions is Saturday, Dec. 8, 2018. (PR)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fund denied creditor claim to Hofschneider estate

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has found that the NMI Settlement Fund miscalculated the pension of a government employee who died in 2013.

This miscalculation, Camacho said, was never brought to the attention of Bernard Villagomez Hofschneider while he was alive.

"Therefore, the Settlement Fund was not a known creditor," said Camacho in an order on Wednesday that granted the administratrix of the Hofschneider estate's motion to dismiss the Settlement Fund's claim.

ment Fund's claim.

The Settlement Fund claimed that based on its audit of Hofschneider's account, the decedent owes the Fund \$1,458.

Camacho said a 60-day deadline for creditors to file their claims passed, but the Settlement Fund did not submit any notice of claims within that period.

"Therefore, both as a known or unknown creditor, the Settlement Fund missed the deadline to submit claims," the judge said.

According to court records Hofschneider died on Oct. 27, 2013, and his wife, who was appointed the administratrix

of his estate, Guadalupe Hofschneider, delivered the decedent's death certificate to the NMI Settlement Fund on Oct. 31, 2013.

On Aug. 10, 2016, counsel to the administratrix submitted a letter inquiring whether the NMI Settlement Fund office possessed an account receivable/payable to the decedent.

On Nov. 28, 2016, the Fund served a notice of adverse action to the administratrix notifying her that they did an audit on the decedent's account and found that he owes \$1458.74.

The administratrix appealed to the NMI Settlement Fund hearing office on Dec. 15, 2016.

On March 29, the administratrix filed her motion to dismiss the NMI Settlement Fund's claims. The Fund filed its opposition on May 11, 2018, and the administratrix filed her reply on June 25.

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Lions provides meals to students

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Filipino-American Lions Club handed out meals to students of the Nuestra Señora Bithen Delos Remedios Parish in Tanapag as part of its many programs last Saturday, Nov. 24.

The Saipan Fil-American Lions Club fed the Confraternity Christian Doctrine

students of Nuestra Señora Bithen Delos Remedios Parish after their classes as part of the Lions Clubs International Relieving the Hunger program.

According to Lions Club International Region 2 chair and club president Annamae Adaza, the feeding program came at a perfect time as most people don't have time to cook.

"As Lions, giving back to the community is our main

thing. When there's a need, there's a Lion and, as stated in our motto: 'We Serve,'" she said.

The feeding program was headed by Adaza but was initiated by club service coordinator Ernie Molina and Confraternity Catholic Doctrine teacher Julie Cunanan.

"It is always our pleasure to assist or volunteer our time, if needed," said Adaza.

IPI holds Thanksgiving, Tinian, school re-opening outreaches

The Corporate Social Responsibility office of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC continues to expand its outreach the past week, not just for typhoon relief but also for Thanksgiving and the resumption of public school classes, by partnering with government agencies, organizations and private companies.

From Nov. 21 to 23, Imperial Pacific, through its CSR, conducted its "Thanksgiving Meal Drive" in partnership with the CNMI government, the Friends of Ralph & Arnold, the

Lady Diann Torres Foundation, Believers, Marianas Visitors Authority, Joeten Kiyu Public Library, Bridge Capital LLC, TanHoldings, J.C. Tenorio Enterprises Inc., MedPharm Group of Cos., Saipan Travel, U-Top Investment (Saipan) Inc., Saipan Ice & Water Co. Inc., and J.G. Sablan Ice & Water.

During this outreach, the company helped distribute some 600 meals in the southern villages of San Antonio, Chalan Kanoa, As Perdido, As Lito, Afetna, Koblerville, and Dandan.



Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's Corporate Social Responsibility's Thanksgiving Meal Drive. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From Nov. 26 to 27, Imperial Pacific set out its CSR team to assist GTC Elementary School as it prepares for the resumption of classes after Super Typhoon Yutu temporarily halted school instruction. The CSR program of IPI helped in desk assembly and transport and setup of school equipment and supplies in the classrooms.

On Nov. 28, Imperial Pacific's CSR team reached out to Tinian, assisting in the donation, preparation, and packing of various toiletries that were donated by Hyatt

Regency Saipan and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

That same day, another CSR team of Imperial Pacific assisted government agencies, the Lady Diann Torres Foundation, and Federal Emergency Management Agency in distributing water, portable gas stoves, butanes, tarps, and diapers to typhoon-affected residents in San Vicente.

Kagman Elementary School received separate help from Imperial Pacific when its CSR team assisted the school in preparing for its re-opening on Nov. 29. (PR)



At GTC Elementary School, the northernmost elementary school on Saipan, Corporate Social Responsibility staff help in the desk assembly in every classroom. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Loading pallets of toiletries for Tinian. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's Corporate Social Responsibility staff assists in loading school supplies and equipment for GTC Elementary School. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Distribution of household rations in some typhoon-impacted residents in San Vicente village.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

The risk to the US in abandoning Afghanistan

Twelve U.S. soldiers were killed in Afghanistan this year. Since the war began in 2001, 2,417 U.S. troops have died there.

So why is America still in Afghanistan? Because the terror groups operating there would have the unfettered ability to again thrive if the U.S. were to withdraw the last of its troops. That answer won't mollify critics of U.S. policy in Afghanistan during three presidencies. But remember, each of those presidents came to understand the terrible risks a U.S. pullout would create.

We say this acknowledging that there is no end in sight to the longest-running war in U.S. history. Taliban insurgents continue to expand their reach, particularly in the south. Their ambushes and suicide bomb attacks have decimated the ranks of the Afghan military and police.

The Islamic State has staked out a presence in the country.

And al-Qaida, which had all but disappeared from the battlefield, is back on the scene — as evidenced by the firefight that killed the Army Ranger earlier this month.

It all points to a bleak outlook. But that outlook would quickly grow bleaker if the U.S. withdrew from the country its remaining contingent of about 14,000 troops.

The Afghan government, led by President Ashraf Ghani, is too inept, corrupt and fractured to have any realistic chance of defeating the Taliban on its own. The war's casualty count for Afghan forces totals 28,529 killed since 2015 as of Wednesday. That's about 25 Afghan troops killed every day.

The mission for American soldiers now in Afghanistan is to advise, train and equip Afghan front-line forces battling the Taliban, Islamic State and al-Qaida, and to carry out counter-terrorism missions against those groups. It's hard to imagine the Afghan government and military enduring without America's helping hand.

And if Kabul fell?

The prospect of Afghanistan becoming a rogue state would be all too real. What's now a largely dysfunctional state again would function as an ideal training ground for terrorists bent on launching attacks on the U.S., Europe and beyond. The world saw in the Middle East what happened when then-President Barack Obama withdrew troops from Iraq, and hemmed and hawed in Syria. The Islamic State emerged, taking over much of northern Iraq and northern Syria and using its newfound territory for instigating terror on the West.

It's tempting, after 17 years of chaos and carnage in Afghanistan, to pull up stakes and withdraw completely. The war costs American taxpayers \$45 billion annually, and the toll inflicted on American soldiers becomes harder to justify with each passing year. But an even higher price lies in allowing terror groups to transform Afghanistan, once again, into a long-range danger to America.

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In praise of an honorable president

I first met George Bush on a fall day in 1970, as he toured Texas, campaigning for the U.S. Senate in his chartered DC-3. The lanky, youthful-looking Houston congressman struck me as open and friendly, moderate in manner and approach.

But when he spoke, I was struck by the contrast between his manner and his sharply conservative comments.

That contrast always seemed present as this man who grew up among the liberal Republicans of his New England youth rose to political power in the far more conservative GOP of his adopted Texas home.

He eagerly embraced the latter's ideology, as a youthful critic of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, in his sometimes harsh 1988 presidential campaign and in picking abortion rights foes for the federal bench. But he always seemed vaguely uncomfortable doing what he felt he had to do to succeed politically. It may explain why he always seemed more at ease dealing with foreign policy.

One thing never changed: his inherent decency and graciousness, whether dealing with fellow Republicans who undercut his efforts to curb the budget deficit or a press that sometimes treated him unfairly by calling this genuine World War II hero a "wimp" or taking advantage of his good manners to suggest he was out of touch with technological advance.

As Americans mourn the 41st president, I'd rather recall this genuinely nice man's personal attributes, rather than his occasional political missteps.

I remember the gracious host who made visitors feel welcome at his seaside Maine home, in the vice president's hillside mansion and in the White House, who welcomed dozens of journalists and their families to his Kennebunkport estate each summer and to the same holiday parties with officials, lawmakers and family friends, instead of segregating them like other presidents and vice presidents.

When I was working on a major profile of him, he invited me and my wife Susan Page to dinner and theater, making sure we met an old friend starring in the show, "Chuck" Heston.

Like many others, I got one of those little notes he wrote to everyone from journalists to county chairmen to heads of state. It chided me for a tongue-in-cheek column in which I predicted his various offspring would emulate his son George and run Texas sports teams.

In the process, I omitted Mrs. Bush. "What about the silver fox?" he asked.

I got another after a 2014 column citing his receipt of the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award and praising his good manners in going out of the way to welcome President Barack Obama to Houston at a time many fellow Republicans were

By CARL P. LEUBSDORF
The Dallas Morning News

Carl P. Leubsdorf, who covered the Bush presidency for The Dallas Morning News, is the paper's former Washington bureau chief and a frequent contributor. Email: carl.p.leubsdorf@gmail.com



showing him little respect. After saying the JFK Award "means a great deal to me," he added, "Your nice comments were icing on the cake."

Bush had a great, sometimes childish, sense of humor. In her memoirs, the former first lady recalled how she discovered some grandchildren had downloaded porno pictures using her computer. Several weeks later, she got a letter summoning her to a regional Federal Trade Commission office to discuss the matter.

She asked the former president to read the letter aloud but, when she noticed lots of smiles, "it came to me that my husband had composed this letter. I fell hook, line and sinker—again!"

Voters saw his somewhat goofy side when he denounced Al Gore as "ozone man...far out" in the 1992 campaign and, bemoaning his troubles, inexplicably exclaimed, "Don't Cry for Me Argentina."

But the term that best characterized him was loyalty; members of the Bush family often said they believed "loyalty is not a character flaw," and they remembered those who stood by him—and those who did not.

They were especially grateful to those who remained by his side in 1992, even when it became evident he would probably lose.

Similarly, the man friends affectionately called "41" remained totally loyal to his presidential son, known as "43," even when it was widely believed he disapproved of the latter's decision to attack Iraq; after all, in his 1998 book with National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft, Bush described the problems he would have faced had he tried to overthrow Saddam Hussein after the Persian Gulf War.

They closely resembled what transpired under his son.

The ultimate irony was that 43's efforts to make up for 41's perceived failures, both politically and in Iraq, only made the first President Bush look better.

History won't likely rate him as a great president, though his management of the end of the Cold War and the Gulf War look even better today than when he left office. But no more decent, honorable and genuinely nice man ever occupied the presidency.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Ocean is life

Wherever in the world you're reading this we share a backyard—our ocean. In fact, we humans share nothing so completely, or as vast, as the ocean.

Here in the Pacific Islands, the ocean is life. For thousands of years it has provided food, dictated the weather, and served as the transportation system for our people. On Guam, we're seeing a resurgence in traditional voyaging and sailing, a cultural practice that ties our people and history to the ocean. Enabling this renaissance to reach its full potential requires a healthy marine environment, as wayfinders rely on nature to provide navigational tools—such as birds, fish, and currents—to help them find islands beyond the horizon.

But in the brief span of my lifetime, our ocean has become warmer, more acidified, more polluted, and increasingly devoid of sea life, a deadly combination that threatens the viability of many coastal communities and, in some cases, entire island nations.

Clearly the time to act is now, and the big blinking arrow of scientific evidence points us to a way to responsible ocean stewardship: the creation of marine protected areas that keep full ecosystems intact, such as the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument does in my own ocean backyard. Scientists tell us that these large marine protected areas work. They protect the thousands of creatures that depend on a healthy food web, and they bring more and bigger fish, and have higher biodiversity,

than do unprotected areas—thus ensuring ecosystem health and balance. Above all, by protecting our ocean, these areas help build resilience in the face of climate change.

That's why I have become a Pew Bertarelli Ocean Ambassador, joining other leaders from around the world in a new initiative to advocate for the creation of large marine protected areas as one of the most effective ways to protect and conserve the ocean. All of us in the ambassador program, including co-chairs John Kerry and David Cameron, staunchly believe that a healthy ocean is vital to humankind's future.

Protecting the marine environment is not new to Pacific islanders. For millennia, we have recognized when areas have been fished too heavily and set them aside as no-fishing zones until they returned to their former productivity. Across Micronesia, this concept has a few different names: *mo* in the Marshall Islands, for instance, and *bul* in Palau.

The Pew Bertarelli Ocean Ambassadors, convened by the Bertarelli Foundation—under the guidance of foundation co-chair Dona Bertarelli—and The Pew Charitable Trusts, serve as ambassadors for ocean conservation and support national efforts to secure and implement marine reserves. While recent years have seen an increase in countries enacting protections, even taken together these measures are well short of what's needed. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature

By CARLOTTA LEON GUERRERO

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Carlotta Leon Guerrero, a native of Guam, is the executive director of the Guam-based Ayuda Foundation and served in the Guam Legislature from 1994 to 2000. This opinion piece was originally published on the Thomas Reuters Foundation website.

has recommended safeguarding at least 30 percent of the world's ocean by 2030 in order to reverse negative impacts and sustain long-term ocean health; currently, only 3.6 percent of the ocean has any level of protection, and a mere 1.8 percent is classified as "strongly protected," according to 2018 data from the U.S.-based non-governmental Marine Conservation Institute.

As an ocean ambassador, I'll work to protect our marine environment so that someday my grandchildren will look out on her ocean backyard and see that it's as healthy as it was when I was a little girl. As a global society, we're very quickly approaching a definitive choice: to either protect this irreplaceable resource or forever forfeit our expectation that it will provide for us. I sincerely hope we have the collective conscience—and the political will—to choose the right course.

Oh, the horror of red Christmas trees

Lock her up. You know who I am talking about, right? Melania Trump. She recently decorated the White House with red Christmas trees. I saw them on TV, and I will tell you I loved them: their brightness, their cheer, their impact as something artistically different while still tasteful. But some leftists were in a huff.

These critics need critics, and I volunteer, noting the obvious truth that this assault on the first lady is pathetic, still another example of petty, snobbish, misogynistic, nativist supremacy. It is more than a little interesting how our moral betters, in seeking a new America, seem to have climbed out of Hillary Clinton's basket of deplorables.

Most people on the left tell you they love immigrants, but apparently not when it comes to a charming, sincere, caring woman whose accent gives her away. Melania Trump is not bathed in things American, and some of her choices demonstrate as much. But to make a big deal of the clothes this former model wears, for instance, is a slide down the ladder of good manners and contempt for diversity. She is not dumb, you know. She speaks five languages. How many do you speak?

Continuing my thoughts in English, even though I could once read a little French, let me state the obvious. What infuriates her critics is their hatred of Donald Trump. Support him politically and you are a racist ignoramus. Be his friend and

expect ostracism for life. Work with him and you'll get kicked out of a restaurant. And never, ever marry him. You are then the iceberg that sunk the Titanic, vinegar on ice cream, the thunder storm that canceled the football game and a female worthy of feminist fury.

It is all so unfair to a first lady who has troubles enough with a husband of nationally demonstrated peculiarities, if I may be euphemistic. He does have his virtues, such as not being Chuck Schumer, but many of his critics much of the time seem to consider him the most threatening fact of 21st century American life. They have an answer: Be worse than he is.

In the Melania attacks, as one example, Vanity Fair magazine said the Christmas decorations conveyed "a sense of menace." That's the kind of thing that our president says about the MS-13 gang that slices people to death with machetes, and does he get away with it? No. He carries on too much, say critics scolding him on the charge of engendering Hispanic hatred.

If you want politics of the scariest kind, look at the unprecedented, partisan aim to impeach Trump from day one and a smelly special counsel investigation. It's not through yet and likely won't be until someone lies to the FBI about the trees not coming from Russia.

On top of that is the way government officials have been emitting illegal leaks enough to submerge basic principles of democratic governance. There's the Justice Department saying phoo-

By JAY AMBROSE

Tribune News Service



Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.

ey to congressional oversight. Then we have Democrats wanting to hit back on Trump's calls for a border wall with verbal stabs of law officers and some seeming to want the disaster of open borders.

A shame was hearings in which Democrats pulverized an excellent Supreme Court nominee with fake news and antics that should be limited to grade school playgrounds. Another shame is the replacement of rule of law and thoughtful debate with rule of mobs and thoughtless shouting.

I could go on. But listen, I believe in a two-party system, of liberals vs. conservatives to help prevent excess on either side, and I grant Republican malfeasance too. But right now we are faced with such issues as a possible cold war with China, and what I would say to those who do not like red Christmas trees is keep your sleepless nights to yourself.

The media was wrong about the caravan

It's roughly the one-month anniversary of CNN reporter Jim Acosta repeatedly telling President Donald Trump at a press conference that the migrant caravan is "hundreds and hundreds of miles away" and "not an invasion," and objecting to a campaign ad that showed migrants climbing border walls—"they're not going to be doing that."

Now, thousands of migrants from the caravan have arrived in the border city of Tijuana, Mexico, and hundreds of them stormed a border crossing, climbing the fence and throwing rocks. U.S. border agents used tear gas to repel the mob. If the throng was too small to constitute an invasion, it certainly wasn't a rules-bound group of asylum-seekers.

It was conventional wisdom in the press that the caravan was a concoction of Trump's fevered imagination. It soon would dissipate and even if not, take months to reach the United States. This widely repeated factoid was based on calculations of its movement on foot (it apparently didn't occur to anyone that the caravan also would travel by bus or truck).

The latest border incident again puts the left's radicalism on display. It's not just that Immigration and Customs Enforcement should be abolished; border agents can't defend themselves from an aggressive rabble.

Hawaii Sen. Brian Schatz wondered on Twitter if the use of tear gas violated the Chemical Weapons Convention (the answer is an emphatic "no," and he deleted the tweet). Rep. Barbara Lee of California described the gassing of "women and children" as an atrocity and called for U.N. inspectors.

All of this rending of garments, despite the fact that the tear gas was directed at the adult males who led the charge, similar crowd-control tactics were used at the border during the Obama administration and, of course, cops use tear gas during disturbances involving fellow U.S. citizens all the time.

The larger issue at the border is the set of rules for Central American migrants. It allows adults with children and minors into the country while their (almost always rejected) asylum claims are adjudicated. They can easily abscond once admitted, and the laxity of the system is an incentive for more Central American family units to come.

By working out a possible deal with the Mexican government for migrants to stay in Mexico while they apply for asylum—and forbidding migrants who enter the U.S. illegally from applying—the administration has hit on an approach to tighten up the current loopholes. But a California district judge, in what looks like another instance of resistance jurisprudence, has put an in-

junction on the policy regarding illegal entrants.

Trump has been wrong to portray the migrants as inherently threatening—the overwhelming majority just want a better life—but we have the sovereign right to decide who does and doesn't come to this country, and demand that it be an orderly, lawful process.

If any significant portion of the caravan gains entry, it will send a message that large-scale movements of people are better than small groups. This could lead to even more pressure at the border, no matter how much it will be dismissed by the same people who insisted the caravan would never arrive.

By RICH LOWRY






King Features Synd., Inc.



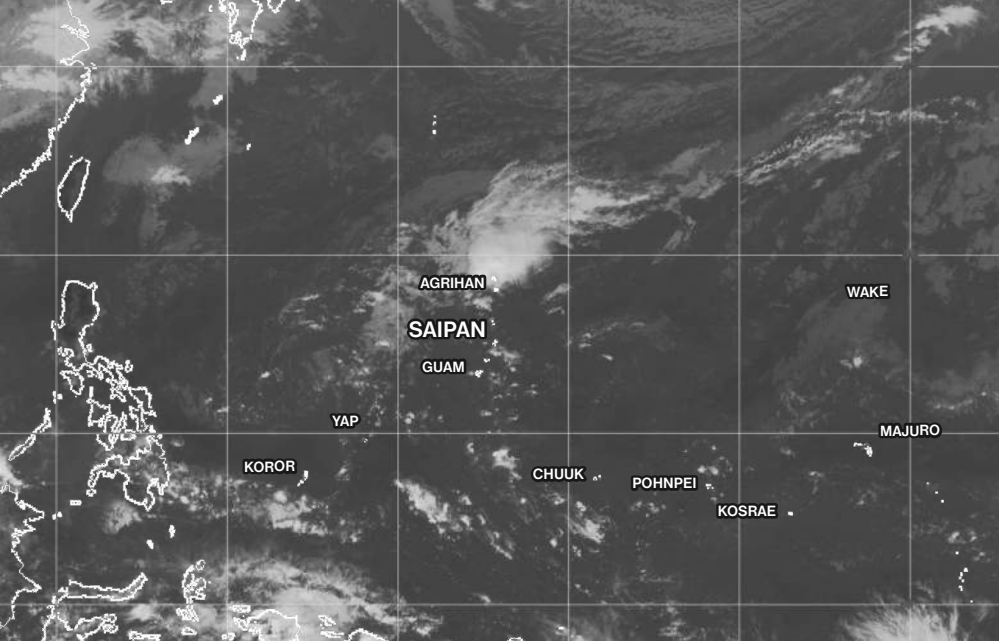
Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
 Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 89° ▼ 76°	▲ 89° ▼ 77°	▲ 86° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 89° ▼ 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:03 AM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The forecast is unchanged from the previous edition, with mainly dry weather expected the next few days. Trade winds will ramp up a bit tonight through the coming week at 15 to 20 mph, and possibly a bit gusty at times. Models show no significant tropical systems the next week or so, but by early next week the GFS is showing the beginning of a more active pattern in eastern Micronesia.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	70° / 59°
Beijing	Sunny	39° / 19°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	79° / 68°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	81° / 72°
London	Partly Cloudy	55° / 46°
Los Angeles	Sunny	63° / 45°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	68° / 50°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	83° / 74°
New York	Mostly Sunny	55° / 38°
Osaka	Rain	70° / 52°
Paris	Showers	57° / 52°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	57° / 34°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	63° / 50°
Salem	Thunderstorms	72° / 51°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	52° / 40°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	43° / 21°
Tokyo	Rain	70° / 55°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	58° / 42°



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PAPA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 20, 2018

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA105	4:45pm	5:25pm	2, 4	UA104	3:00pm	3:41pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) – temporarily suspended				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN – temporarily suspended			
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily	7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
				7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily resume from Nov 27	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily resume from Nov 27
Temporarily suspended:				Temporarily suspended:			
TW9308	1:10am	4:10am	3, 4	TW9307	6:30pm	12:10am+1	2, 3
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW9308	3:20am	6:30am	2	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
TW9308	3:25am	6:30am	5	TW9307	9:00pm	2:20am+1	1
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily	TW9307	9:05pm	2:25am+1	4
				7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) – resume from Nov 28				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN – resume from Nov 28			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH) – resume from Nov 28				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN – resume from Nov 28			
JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) – resume from Nov 26				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN – resume from Nov 26			
3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6	3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) – resume from Nov 27				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN – resume from Nov 27			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:15am	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA182/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:50pm	2, 4 via GUM	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4 resume from Nov 28	HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7 resume from Nov 28
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7 resume from Nov 22	U042	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7 resume from Nov 22
UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM	U042	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6 resume from Nov 22
UA105/159	4:45pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM	UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4, 6 via GUM
				UA116/174	11:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
				2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
				2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
04:36 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.50
10:19 AM	LOW TIDE	0.61
4:36 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.02
11:36 PM	LOW TIDE	0.19

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Tuesday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Wednesday	6:29 AM	5:45 PM
Thursday	6:29 AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:34 AM	2:52 PM	-
Tuesday	3:28 AM	3:34 PM	-
Wednesday	4:21 AM	4:17 PM	-
Thursday	5:14 AM	5:02 PM	-
Friday	6:08 AM	5:48 PM	-

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Life after Yutu: Status updates

It has been a little over a month since Super Typhoon Yutu devastated the islands of Saipan and Tinian, but significant movement toward recovery has been progressively steady and made possible through partnerships and collaborative efforts fostered between the CNMI government and our federal and military partners.

In just five weeks, Saipan's shelter population has been reduced by 70 percent. Power has been restored to 50 percent of the island of Saipan, with 50 percent of Tinian projected by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to be back online by Christmas. Over 80 percent of Saipan's water wells and 100 percent of Tinian's wells have been energized. Public schools, including the Northern Marianas College, will be opening their doors for the first time since Yutu made landfall.

Additionally, the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport welcomed its first flight of tourists a week ago and key businesses vital to community service and continuity such as gas stations, water companies, banking institutions, restaurants, and convenient stores have resumed normal operating hours.

The tasks of water distribution provided by reverse osmosis water purification units and debris removal from primary roads conducted on the islands of Saipan and Tinian by our military partners have been marked as "mission complete" due to signs of life in the CNMI reverting back to normal.

Office of the Governor

The Office of the Governor continues to direct CNMI government offices to resume reduced operational hours from 9am to 3pm, so that government employees and residents can avail of the variety of disaster assistance programs re-

quested by CNMI leadership, such as Disaster Food Assistance, or D-NAP, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, and the CNMI Tenting Program, or TETRIS, and humanitarian relief from the American Red Cross, CNMI Mass Care, other nonprofit partners, and volunteer organizations. Resumption of normal operational hours will be announced soon.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, and Senate President Arnold I. Palacios continue to meet with regional and international consulate offices that have committed to providing additional assistance to their respective citizen groups. This includes the Philippine Consulate General, Korean Consulate, FSM Consulate, and the China Consulate. The meetings centered on leveraging additional humanitarian and financial resources for CNMI residents who were severely impacted by the storm.

The CNMI leadership continues to work with federal partners on leveraging additional federal assistance related to disaster assistance, technical assistance, and hazard mitigation. This includes conversations with the Department of the Interior, U.S. Economic Development Authority, etc.

The CNMI leadership continues to work with tourism stakeholders and private sector partners on revitalizing and supporting the CNMI tourism market and overall economy as the CNMI continues to see visitor arrivals steadily increase. The Marianas Visitors Authority continues to market the CNMI as a viable and preferred destination.

Power and water restoration

CUC has been hard at work, and have been able to within this past month restore 50 percent of power, more than 80

percent of water production to the island of Saipan and 100 percent water production and 50 percent of power by the Christmas holiday to the island of Tinian. Further, 106 out of 138 water wells have been energized, 66 of which are online with the CUC power grid and 40 of which are online with FEMA generators.

Shelter and housing

On Nov. 5, 2018, the CNMI government, in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Defense, and American Red Cross, introduced the Temporary Emergency Tent and Roofing Installation Support Program, or TETRIS. The TETRIS program was designed to assist families whose homes were totaled or majorly destroyed as a result of Yutu.

As of today, 804 tents have been installed on Saipan, and 202 on Tinian.

As the CNMI government continues to provide temporary housing solutions for residents impacted by Yutu, more inspections conducted by FEMA inspectors to damaged homes will also be occurring simultaneously; however, it is important to note that the TETRIS program and Individual Assistance provided by FEMA are two separate programs. Applying for disaster assistance with FEMA will not automatically make you an applicant for the TETRIS program, and vice versa.

It is also important to note that the deadline to submit right of entry forms for recipient consideration of tents or temporary roofs have been set for Saturday, Dec. 8, 2018.

Applications received after Dec. 8 will not be accepted.

Deadline to apply for FEMA Disaster Assistance is set for Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019.

As of today, the shelter count on Saipan is 360, nearly a 70-percent reduction from the immediate post-Yutu landfall shelter count.

Debris removal

The Saipan Mayor's Office, Department of Public Works, and the Department of Defense continue to team up to clear debris from residents' homes, and would like to remind the residents of Saipan and Tinian to continue separating debris into four different piles:

1. Green waste (trees, shrubs, plants, grass, etc.)
2. Tin (roofing metal, metal sheets, etc.)
3. Lumber (plywood, 2x2s, 2x4s, etc.)
4. Household Waste (mattresses and furniture damaged by Yutu. Does not include daily household trash)

Day-to-day household trash mixed in with the above piles will not be picked up by debris crews.

Emergency food assistance

Due to the ongoing processing of D-NAP, the regular issuance of NAP benefits will be delayed one week. NAP benefits will be issued on Dec. 10 on Tinian and Saipan, and Dec. 11 on Rota.

The D-NAP application process on Saipan will be extended an additional week. The D-NAP application and issuance has been completed for Tinian.

Disaster unemployment assistance

Disaster Unemployment Assistance is available for workers and self-employed individuals on Saipan, Rota, Tinian and the Northern Islands affected by Super Typhoon Yutu and/or Typhoon Mangkhut. Deadline is Dec. 16, 2018, which means there are 12 days remaining until DUA application deadline. DUA provides

payment and reemployment assistance to individuals who are unemployed as a direct result of a major disaster.

Saipan airport

The Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport is open for day and night flights. Island power has been temporarily restored. The Commonwealth Ports Authority is repairing its riser and materials have been ordered. The main generators are awaiting parts and will undergo maintenance. The commuter building is totally shut down due to extensive damage. Commuter tenants are operating out of temporary container offices in the commuter parking area. CPA is working with a vendor to remove the damaged canopy leading from the bus parking to the commuter building. Majority of the canopy has been removed.

All navigational aids are operable. Flight checks were completed. The Tower and Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting are now on island power. Majority of the taxiway/runway lights have been replaced. However, the taxiway/runway signs need replacement. The sign housing has been replaced, and now awaiting the actual signs.

There is water running through the terminals. Most of the streetlights are non-operable due to damaged wires and poles. Need to order parts and light poles. More lights have been fixed and CPA has received 30 solar lights, which are now being installed. The CPA is working on restoring the exterior terminal lights and installing temporary lighting. The SIA incinerator is operable by a generator. The Mobil aviation facility is powered by generator and is able to refuel aircrafts.

Car rental tenants are open for business.

Port of Saipan is back to normal operations.

Tinian airport

The Tinian International Airport is running on a FEMA generator. The CPA generator is awaiting a schedule to be serviced. Still awaiting parts to replace broken taxiway and runway lights. Temporary fencing repair was completed.

Port of Tinian

The dock has no power. Any incoming vessels will need to bring their own lights and power supply. Fencing materials arrived on Tinian to repair damaged areas. FEMA operations was moved from the airport to the seaport.

Rota airport

Both the Benjamin Taisacan Airport on Rota and the Rota seaport are back to normal operations.

Practicing Caution

With the partial opening of the Public School System campuses happening as early as today, Dec. 3, 2018, the Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management would like to advise the community to be cognizant of heavy equipment and dump trucks still circulating public highways and to practice caution when driving on public roadways. "The Mayor's Office, Department of Public Works and our Department of Defense partners are still removing debris from schools and secondary roads where most of the community reside, and so we are encouraging parents who need to drop off their children to school to leave a little earlier than usual to ensure kids are getting to school on time," said Pedro Leon Guerrero, HSEM deputy special assistant. **(PR)**

Curbside pickup of household chemicals, e-waste, appliances available

HONOLULU—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has begun assessing and removing oil and hazardous waste on Saipan and Tinian to reduce risks to public health and the environment following Super Typhoon Yutu.

In addition, agencies are offering curbside pickup of hazardous materials from residential and commercial properties as well as public drop-off locations for items such as paints, solvents, herbicides, e-waste, appliances and other goods.

Along with EPA and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, other disaster response agencies include the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, and the Mayor's Office of Saipan and Tinian.

EPA's activities include collecting, testing, shipping and

disposing of hazardous materials such as damaged electric transformers, household hazardous waste, electronic waste and white goods.

EPA is also operating two public drop-off stations on Saipan and one on Tinian.

In addition, EPA is helping local agencies sample drinking water and providing technical assistance for wastewater operations and water supply restoration.

Curbside pickup

The mayor's offices and BECQ are picking up household hazardous waste (paint, solvents, pesticides, other chemicals), appliances and electronics. Place your items curbside and keep separate from green waste, tin and construction materials.

The last pickup sweep on

Tinian is on Dec. 5 and Saipan on Dec. 17, so put your items out now. Pickups of items will happen per village with crews coming to each area starting from the south and ending in the north and repeating these pickups for a total of three sweeps of each area.

Drop-off locations

SAIPAN:

Lower Base Transfer Station: Now until Dec. 14, 7:30am to 4:50pm, seven days a week.

As Gonno Staging Area (Kobler Airfield, near Tottottville): Now until Dec. 2, 8:30am to 4:00pm, seven days a week.

TINIAN:

Tinian port (near CPA building): Now until Dec. 3, 9am to 3pm, Monday through Saturday.

For more information on household hazardous waste, electronic waste, or white goods disposal, contact the CNMI BECQ at 664-8500.

Response update

EPA is working with CUC on transformer collection. To date, 492 transformers have been collected on Saipan and 166 on Tinian. EPA is collecting and removing household hazardous waste such as paints, cleaners, solvents, oils, batteries, herbicides and pesticides.

CUC has restored 108 of 131 water wells currently producing 9.6 million gallons per day, or about 82 percent of the total capacity. All areas of Saipan are receiving water; some areas with limited hours and every other day. **(PR)**



DONATION TO KARIDAT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hagatna Entertainment Group led by Phil Roberto and a host of entertainers in Guam—79 & Friends, Siracha, the Dolls, and Biggah & Bettah—has donated \$3,000 to Karidat's Super Typhoon Yutu long-term recovery mission. "These guys got together right after the typhoon and put together a fundraising concert for their friends and family up here on Saipan and Tinian," said Lauri Ogumoro, executive director of Karidat. "When we explained to Phil how Karidat will be helping with the long-term recovery mission for the victims of Super Typhoon Yutu, he was all for it." "Knowing that the recovery from Typhoon Soudelor took about three years, we foresee many years of helping our community to recover from the devastation of Yutu. The process will be long and hard for many individuals and families," said Ogumoro. She said that Roberto did have one special request: for Karidat to share a portion of the donation with the Mercedarian Sisters at Maturana who have been sheltering five families whose homes were completely destroyed.

Business

US, China reach 90-day ceasefire in their trade dispute

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—The United States and China reached a 90-day ceasefire in a trade dispute that has rattled financial markets and threatened world economic growth. The breakthrough came after a dinner meeting Saturday between President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping at the Group of 20 summit in Buenos Aires.

Trump agreed to hold off on plans to raise tariffs Jan. 1 on \$200 billion in Chinese goods. The Chinese agreed to buy a “not yet agreed upon, but very substantial amount of agricultural, energy, industrial” and other products from the United States to reduce America’s huge trade deficit with China, the White House said.

The truce, reached after a dinner of more than two hours, buys time for the two countries to work out their differences in a dispute over Beijing’s aggressive drive to supplant U.S. technological dominance.

“It’s an incredible deal,” Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One. “What I’ll be doing is holding back on tariffs. China will be opening up, China will be getting rid of tariffs. China will be buying massive amounts of products from us.”

In a long-sought concession to the U.S., China agreed to label fentanyl, the deadly synthetic opioid responsible for tens of thousands of American drug deaths annually, as



President Donald Trump listens to China’s President Xi Jinping speak during their bilateral meeting at the G20 Summit, Saturday, Dec. 1, 2018 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

a controlled substance. And Beijing agreed to reconsider a takeover by U.S. chipmaker Qualcomm that it had previously blocked.

The White House announcement framed a victory for Trump and his unflinching negotiating tactics, securing a commitment from China to engage in talks on key U.S. economic priori-

ties, with little obvious concession by the U.S. Notably, however, the White House appears to be reversing course on its previous threats to tie trade discussions to security concerns, like China’s attempted territorial expansion in the South China Sea.

“It’s great the two sides took advantage of this opportunity to call a truce,” said Andy

Rothman, investment strategist at Matthews Asia. “The two sides appear to have had a major change of heart to move away from confrontation toward engagement. This changes the tone and direction of the bilateral conversation.”

The Trump-Xi meeting was the marquee event of Trump’s whirlwind two-day trip to

Argentina for the G-20 summit after the president canceled a sit-down with Russian President Vladimir Putin over mounting tensions between Russia and Ukraine. Trump also canceled a Saturday news conference, citing respect for the Bush family following the death of former President George H.W. Bush.

Trump said Bush’s death put a “damper” on what he described as a “very important meeting” with Xi.

The United States and China are locked in a dispute over their trade imbalance and Beijing’s tech policies. Washington accuses China of deploying predatory tactics in its tech drive, including stealing trade secrets and forcing American firms to hand over technology in exchange for access to the Chinese market.

Trump has imposed import taxes on \$250 billion in Chinese products—25 percent on \$50 billion worth and 10 percent on the other \$200 billion. Trump had planned to raise the tariffs on the \$200 billion to 25 percent if he couldn’t get a deal with Xi.

China has already slapped tariffs on \$110 billion in U.S. goods.

Under the agreement reached in Buenos Aires, the two countries have 90 days to resolve their differences over Beijing’s tech policies. If they can’t, the higher U.S. tariffs will go into effect on the \$200 billion in Chinese imports.

U.S. officials insist that the American economy is more resilient to the tumult than China’s, but they remain anxious of the economic effects of a prolonged showdown—as Trump has made economic growth the benchmark by which he wants his administration judged.

G-20 agrees on trade, migration, US goes own way on climate

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Leaders of the world’s top economies agreed Saturday to repair the global trading system as they closed a Group of 20 summit that saw the Trump administration at odds with many allies over the Paris accord on climate change and issues like migration.

The joint statement signed by all 20 member-nations said 19 of them reaffirmed their commitment to the Paris climate accord, with the United States, which withdrew from the pact under President Donald Trump, the lone holdout. The official communique acknowledged flaws in global commerce and called for reforming the World Trade Organization, but it didn’t mention the word “protectionism” after negotiators said that had met resistance from the United States.

Applause broke out in the convention center hall as the leaders, including Trump, signed off on the statement at

the end of the two-day summit in the Argentine capital, the first time it has been held in South America.

The non-binding agreement was reached after marathon talks by diplomats stretched overnight and into daylight, amid deep divisions between member nations. European Union officials said the United States was the main holdout on nearly every issue. Trump has criticized the WTO and taken aggressive trade policies targeting China and the EU.

But China also pushed back in talks on steel, South Africa objected to language on trade, Australia didn’t want the statement to be too soft on migration and Turkey worried it would push too far on climate change, according to the officials.

A senior White House official said the joint statement meets many U.S. objectives and stressed that it includes language about WTO reform. The official also

noted other elements such as language on workforce development and women’s economic development and a commitment by China to doing infrastructure financing on “transparent terms.”

According to the official, the unusual language on climate was necessary for Washington to sign on, and Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Russia had appeared sympathetic to the U.S. position but ultimately stayed with the other countries.

The final language of the statement says, regarding climate, that 19 nations that are signatories to the Paris accord reiterate their commitment to it while the U.S. reiterates its decision to withdraw. It also notes a recent U.N. report that warned damage from global warming will be much worse than previously feared, and expresses support for an upcoming U.N. climate meeting in Poland meant to nail down how countries will meet promises made in the Paris accord.

Salaried workers beware: GM cuts are a warning for all

DETROIT (AP)—For generations, the career path for smart kids around Detroit was to get an engineering or business degree and get hired by an automaker or parts supplier. If you worked hard and didn’t screw up, you had a job for life with enough money to raise a family, take vacations and buy a weekend cottage in northern Michigan.

Now that once-reliable route to prosperity appears to be vanishing, as evidenced by General Motors’ announcement this week that it plans to shed 8,000 white-collar jobs on top of 6,000 blue-collar ones.

It was a humbling warning that in this era of rapid and disruptive technological change, those with a college education are not necessarily insulated from the kind of layoffs factory workers know all too well.

The cutbacks reflect a transformation underway in both the auto industry and the broader U.S. economy,

with nearly every type of business becoming oriented toward computers, software and automation.

“This is a big mega-trend pervading the whole economy,” said Mark Muro, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution who has researched changes being caused by the digital age.

Cities that suffered manufacturing job losses decades ago are now grappling with the problem of fewer opportunities for white-collar employees such as managers, lawyers, bankers and accountants. Since 2008, The Associated Press found, roughly a third of major U.S. metro areas have lost a greater percentage of white-collar jobs than blue-collar jobs. It’s a phenomenon seen in such places as Wichita, Kansas, with its downsized aircraft industry, and towns in Wisconsin that have lost auto, industrial machinery or furniture-making jobs.

In GM’s case, the jobs that will be shed through buyouts

and layoffs are held largely by people who are experts in the internal combustion engine—mechanical engineers and others who spent their careers working on fuel injectors, transmissions, exhaust systems and other components that won’t be needed for the electric cars that eventually will drive themselves. GM, the nation’s largest automaker, says those vehicles are its future.

“We’re talking about high-skilled people who have made a substantial investment in their education,” said Marina Whitman, a retired professor of business and public policy at the University of Michigan and a former GM chief economist. “The transitions can be extremely painful for a subset of people.”

GM is still hiring white-collar employees, but the new jobs are for those who can write software code, design laser sensors or develop batteries and other devices for future vehicles.

Nation

Former President George H.W. Bush dies at age 94

HOUSTON (AP)—George H.W. Bush played many prominent public roles in nearly a century of life, from when he was a 20-year-old World War II hero to the 41st president of the United States. In between came turns as a congressman, the director of the CIA, an ambassador to the United Nations and China, and a two-term vice president.

Yet colleagues and friends say the great-grandfather was humble, modest and unfailingly polite.

Bush, who died late Friday at his Houston home at age 94, would see his popularity as president soar after he assembled a U.S.-led military coalition that liberated the oil-rich nation of Kuwait from its invading neighbor Iraq in 1991 during the Gulf War. But just a year later, a deepening economic crisis at home would drive him from office when he lost his bid for re-election.

Still, the Republican would reinvent himself yet again by becoming an elder statesman admired by members of both major political parties. Bush, who died just eight months after the death of his wife of seven decades, Barbara, also saw his son George W. Bush twice elected as the nation's 43rd president.

George H.W. Bush, whose presidency soared with the coalition victory over Iraq in Kuwait, but then plummeted in the throes of a weak economy that led voters to turn him out of office after one term, has died. He was 94 (Dec 1)

"George H. W. Bush was a man of the highest character and the best dad a son or daughter could ask for," the younger Bush said in a statement Friday. "The entire Bush family is deeply grateful for 41's life and love, for the compassion of those who have cared and prayed for Dad, and for the condolences of our friends and fellow citizens."

Air Force One was being sent to Texas to transport Bush's casket to Washington, where his body will lay in state at the Capitol Rotunda after an arrival ceremony Monday. The public is invited and can pay their respects from Monday evening through Wednesday morning. The family is still arranging funeral services, but the White House said President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump plan to attend.

The son of a senator, Bush was the man with golden resume who rose through the political ranks, which also included becoming the Republican Party chairman before serving as vice president under the hugely popular Ronald Reagan.

But he acknowledged he had trouble articulating "the vision thing" during his time in office. He was also haunted by his decision to break a stern, solemn vow he made to voters when he accepted the Republican Party's nomination for president in 1988: "Read my lips. No new taxes."

He lost his bid for re-election to then-Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton during a campaign in which business-



In this Oct. 9, 1970 file photo, Rep. George H.W. Bush, R-Texas, talks with a group of young people at a rally in Houston, Texas. AP

man H. Ross Perot took almost 19 percent of the vote as an independent candidate. But with the election of son George W. Bush to the White House, they became only the second father-and-son chief executives, following John Adams and John Quincy Adams.

Out of office, Bush was content to remain largely on the sidelines except for an occasional speech or paid appearance and visits abroad. He backed Clinton on the North American Free Trade Agreement, which had its genesis during his own presidency. He visited the Middle East, where he was revered for his defense of Kuwait. And he returned to China, where he was welcomed as "an old friend" from his days as the U.S. ambassador there.

He later teamed with Clinton to raise tens of millions of dollars for victims of a 2004 tsunami in the Indian Ocean and Hurricane Katrina, which swamped New Orleans and the Gulf Coast in 2005. During their wide-ranging travels, the political

odd couple grew close.

"Who would have thought that I would be working with Bill Clinton of all people?" he joked in October 2005.

As the years passed, his popularity rebounded with the growth of his reputation as a fundamentally decent and well-meaning leader who, although he was not a stirring orator or a dreamy visionary, was a steadfast humanitarian.

During his presidency, his greatest triumphs came with his handling of the first Gulf War and during a time when the Cold War was ending. After Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, Bush quickly began building an international military coalition that included other Arab states. After liberating Kuwait, he rejected suggestions that the U.S. carry the offensive to Baghdad, choosing to end the hostilities a mere 100 hours after the start of the ground war.

"That wasn't our objective," he told The Associated Press in 2011 from his office just a few blocks

from his Houston home. "The good thing about it is there was so much less loss of human life than had been predicted and indeed than we might have feared."

But the decisive military defeat did not lead to the regime's downfall, as many in the administration had hoped. Bush later acknowledged: "I miscalculated." His legacy was dogged for years by that decision not to go into Baghdad and remove Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein from power. Hussein was eventually ousted in 2003, in the second Gulf War led by Bush's son, and was followed by a long, bloody insurgency.

George H.W. Bush had entered the White House in 1989 with a reputation as a man of indecision and indeterminate views. One news-magazine even suggested he was a "wimp." But his work-hard, play-hard approach to the presidency initially won broad public approval: He held more news conferences in most months than Reagan, his predecessor, did in most years.

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The Iraq crisis of 1990 to 1991 also brought out the skills Bush had honed in a quarter-century of politics and public service. After winning United Nations support and a green light from a reluctant Congress, he unleashed a punishing air war against Iraq and a five-day ground juggernaut that sent Iraqi forces reeling in disarray back to Baghdad. He basked in the biggest outpouring of patriotism and pride in America's military since World War II, and his approval ratings soared to nearly 90 percent.

The other battles he fought as president, including a war on drugs and a crusade to make American children the best educated in the world, were not so decisively won.

An avid outdoorsman who took Theodore Roosevelt as a model, Bush sought to safeguard the environment and signed the first improvements to the Clean Air Act in more than a decade. It was activism with a Republican cast, allowing polluters to buy others' clean-air credits and giving industry flexibility on how to meet tougher goals on smog.

He also signed the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act to ban workplace discrimination against people with disabilities and require improved access to public places and transportation.

Bush rode into office pledging to make the United States a "kinder, gentler" nation and calling on Americans to volunteer their time for good causes—an effort he said would create "a thousand points of light."

But it was Bush's violation of a different pledge—the no-new-taxes promise—that helped sink his bid for a second term. He abandoned the idea in his second year, cutting a deficit-reduction deal that angered many congressional Republicans and contributed to GOP losses in the 1990 midterm elections.

Bush failed to rein in the deficit, which had tripled to \$3 trillion under Reagan and galloped ahead by as much as \$300 billion a year under Bush. Seven years of economic growth ended in mid-1990, just as the Gulf crisis began to unfold. Bush insisted the recession would be "short and shallow," and lawmakers did not even try to pass a jobs bill or other relief measures.

Bush's true interests lay elsewhere, outside the realm of nettlesome domestic politics. "I love coping with the problems in foreign affairs," he told a child who asked what he liked best about being president.

He operated at times like a one-man State Department, on the phone at dawn with his peers—Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union, Francois Mitterrand of France, Germany's Helmut Kohl.

Asia

S. Korea says N. Korean soldier defects to South

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A North Korean soldier fled across a heavily fortified border to defect to South Korea early Saturday, the military in Seoul said, just as the rivals began taking steps to reduce military tensions.

South Korean soldiers escorted the defector to safety after finding him moving south of the eastern side of the military demarcation line that bisects the Koreas, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

South Korean authorities plan to question the defector over the details of his escape. The Joint Chiefs of Staff said it had not observed any unusual activity from North Korean troops in the area where the defection happened.

It comes as the North and South Korea have pushed to implement a wide-ranging military agreement reached in September to reduce tensions across their border.

The North's official media

hasn't reported about Saturday's case. Pyongyang has frequently accused Seoul of kidnapping or enticing its citizens to defect. About 30,000 North Koreans have fled to South Korea, mostly traveling via China, since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

Last November, a North Korean soldier was critically wounded in a jointly controlled area after he fled to the South amid a hail of bullets fired by his former comrades. The soldier, Oh Chong Song, survived and told a Japanese newspaper last month that he had been drinking after getting into unspecified trouble with his friends. He said he kept going after breaking through a checkpoint in a military jeep because he became fearful of being executed.

South Korea says the military agreement, which also included creating buffer zones along the Koreas' land and sea boundaries and a no-fly zone above the border, is an

important trust-building step that would help stabilize peace and advance reconciliation between the rivals. But critics say the South risks conceding some of its conventional military strength before North Korea takes any meaningful steps on denuclearization, as the larger nuclear negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang seemingly drift into a stalemate.

South Korea's Defense Ministry said Friday that the Korean militaries completed removing 20 front-line guard posts and land mines from a border area where they plan to start their first-ever joint search for remains of soldiers killed during the 1950-53 Korean War.

The Koreas and the U.S.-led U.N. Command recently finished removing firearms and troops from the jointly controlled area at the border village of Panmunjom, and eventually plan to allow tourists to freely move around there.

3 Filipino police guilty of teen's murder in brutal drug war

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine court found three police officers guilty on Thursday of killing a student they alleged was a drug dealer, in the first known such conviction under the president's deadly crack-down on drugs.

Regional Trial Court Presiding Judge Rodolfo Azucena Jr. ruled the officers murdered Kian Loyd delos Santos during a raid in Caloocan city's slums in the Manila metropolis last year. It rejected the policemen's claim that the 17-year-old fired back while resisting arrest.

The court sentenced the officers, Arnel Oares, Jeremias Pereda and Jerwin Cruz, to be imprisoned for up to 40 years without parole, although they can appeal. Aside from the prison term, the policemen, who appeared in court in handcuffs and yellow detainee shirts, were ordered to pay damages to Santos's impoverished family.

President Rodrigo Duterte's crackdown, which has left thousands of suspects dead, reportedly in clashes with the police, has alarmed Western governments and U.N. rights experts and horrified human rights watchdogs. The volatile president has stressed he does not condone extrajudicial killings, although he has repeatedly threatened drug suspects with death and has assured po-

lice he would back them up in ways that human rights watchdogs say have encouraged law enforcers to act with impunity.

"A shoot first, think later attitude can never be countenanced in a civilized society. Never has homicide or murder been a function of law enforcement," Azucena said in his ruling. "The public peace is never predicated on the cost of human life."

Duterte's government called the ruling "a triumph of justice" which disproved critics' assertion that the judiciary was a rubberstamp.

"As we have always stressed, the conduct of the government's anti-illegal drug campaign is based on accountability. Therefore, we do not — and we will never — tolerate unjustified police violence, brutality or killing," presidential spokesman and chief legal counsel Salvador Panelo told a news conference.

Opposition Sen. Risa Hontiveros, who has railed against the drug killings, said the court decision proved that extrajudicial killings under Duterte's crackdown were being committed by rogue members of the national police force.

"This is a light in the darkness," Hontiveros said in a statement. "Despite the gruesome climate of killing and impunity in the country, this verdict sends the message that

there is hope and justice. And we will fight for more light and truth until the darkness cannot overcome them."

Hontiveros said the numbers of drug killings, which started to rise when Duterte took office in mid-2016 and launched his war against drugs, could not have reached "catastrophic levels if these killings did not have a sinister principle and policy behind them."

Duterte and police officials have repeatedly stated there was no state policy to kill drug suspects illegally. Duterte faces at least two mass murder complaints before the International Criminal Court, which he said would never acquire jurisdiction over him.

Delos Santos's killing on Aug. 16, 2017, sparked an outcry and a televised Senate inquiry, and prompted Duterte to temporarily order a small anti-drug agency with only about a thousand men to oversee the campaign against illegal drugs. The crackdown had been previously led by the national police, which Duterte once described as "corrupt to the core."

The policemen claimed delos Santos was a drug dealer who fired at officers during the raid, but his family and witnesses testified in official investigations that he was shot in a dark alley near a creek as he pleaded for his life.

World

Ukraine cites massive buildup of Russian forces along border



Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko addresses the Armed Forces of Ukraine at the military airfield in Vasylykiv region, Ukraine, Saturday, Dec. 1, 2018, as Poroshenko transferred new aircraft and military equipment to the Ukrainian Armed Forces as part of his working visit.

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Russia is building up its land forces and weapons along the border, Ukraine's president said Saturday as German Chancellor Angela Merkel warned Russia not to block Ukrainian ports in the Sea of Azov.

Tensions between Russia and Ukraine were still escalating a week after a naval clash in the Black Sea on Nov. 25 in which Russia fired on three Ukrainian naval ships then seized them and their 24 crew members.

Across the world in Argentina, foreign leaders grilled Russian President Vladimir Putin about Russia's actions,

but he remained firm, squarely blaming Ukraine for the confrontation, saying its vessels violated Russian territorial waters. He didn't address Ukraine's accusations of a Russian military buildup.

Speaking at a Ukrainian military event, President Petro Poroshenko said Russia has deployed "more than 80,000 troops, 1,400 artillery and multiple rocket launch systems, 900 tanks, 2,300 armored combat vehicles, 500 aircraft and 300 helicopters" along their common border.

These numbers, which have not been verified, would account for the vast majority of men and hardware as-

signed to Russia's Western Military District.

The naval clash came as the Ukrainian ships sailed to the Kerch Strait, the only waterway leading into the Sea of Azov and the site of a new key Russian bridge linking occupied Crimea with the Russian mainland.

Russia accused the Ukrainian vessels of violating Russian territorial waters, a charge Ukraine has denied. Ukrainian officials say Russia has now imposed a de facto blockade on its two main ports in the Sea of Azov by allowing only ships destined for Russian ports through the strait.

Pope says he's worried about homosexuality in the priesthood

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis has been quoted in a soon-to-be published book as saying that having gays in the clergy "is something that worries me" and remarking that some societies are considering homosexuality a "fashionable" lifestyle.

Italian daily Corriere della Sera's website Saturday ran excerpts of the book in the form of an interview that Francis gave about religious vocations. Francis was quoted as describing homosexuality within the walls of seminaries, convents and other religious places where clergy live as "a very serious question."

"In our societies, it even seems homosexuality is fashionable. And this mentality, in some way, also

influences the life of the church," Francis was quoted as telling his interviewer, a Spanish-born missionary priest, Fernando Prado.

The book, based on four hours of conversations the two had in August at the Vatican, will be published in 10 languages next week. Its Spanish title is "La Fuerza de la vocacion," ("The Strength of Vocation").

Francis reiterated past Vatican pronouncements about the attention that must be given to selecting men for admission to seminaries, saying "we must very much take care of human and sentimental maturity" when training future priests.

Separately, the Italian news agency ANSA quoted Francis in the book as commenting on a clergyman who had told

him that having gays in Catholic religious housing "isn't so grave" because it's "only an expression of affection."

That reasoning "is in error," Francis said. "In consecrated life and priestly life, there is no place for this kind of affection."

He said candidates with "neuroses or strong unbalances" should not be accepted "to the priesthood nor to (other forms of) consecrated life."

Still, Francis, as he has in the past, stressed that gay Catholics contribute to the life of the church. He said the church must always remember that "they are persons who will live in the service of the church, of the Christian community, of the people of God. Let's never forget this perspective."

Health & Wellness

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is sponsored by



Tan Siu Lin
Foundation

Girls often face significant pressure to look attractive. The quest for a perfect body or appearance can take a heavy toll, though. Find out what you can do to help young girls develop and maintain a healthy body image and self-esteem.

CAUSES OF A NEGATIVE BODY IMAGE

Maintaining a healthy body image during adolescence, a period of major physical and emotional changes, can be difficult. Factors that might harm a girl's body image include:

- Natural weight gain and other changes caused by puberty
- Peer pressure to look a certain way
- Media images that promote the ideal female body as thin
- Having a mother who's overly concerned about her own weight or her daughter's weight or appearance



WOMEN'S WELLNESS

Tips for guiding girls to a healthy body image

Research suggests that seeing material that sexually objectifies girls—where a girl is seen as a thing for others' sexual use rather than an independent, thinking person—can also have a harmful effect.

CONSEQUENCES OF A NEGATIVE BODY IMAGE

Body image can affect how a girl feels about herself. If your daughter doesn't live up to her ideal body image, she might begin to feel inadequate and ashamed of her body. This can increase the risk of low self-esteem, depression and eating disorders.

A negative body image can harm girls' nutrition, causing them to skip meals or take diet pills. Some girls might try to control their weight by smoking or change their appearance by buying beauty products or getting cosmetic surgery. Having a negative body image might affect a girl's comfort with her sexuality or reproductive body functions, such as menstruation or breast-feeding, as she gets older.

Spending time worrying about their bodies and how they measure up can also take away from girls' ability to concentrate on other pursuits.

TALKING ABOUT BODY IMAGE

Talking about body image with your daughter can help her become comfortable in her own skin. When you discuss body image, you might:

- Explain the effects of puberty.
- Make sure your daughter understands that weight gain is a normal part of her development, especially during puberty.

- Talk about media messages.

Television programs, movies, music videos, websites, magazines and even some toys might send the message that only a certain body type is acceptable and that maintaining

tance and respect can help her build self-esteem and resilience.

- Use positive language.

Rather than talking about "fat" and "thin," encourage your daughter to focus on eating a healthy diet and



an attractive appearance is the most important goal. Check out what your daughter is reading or watching and discuss it. Encourage her to question what she sees and hears.

- Monitor internet use.

Teens use social networking sites and services to share pictures and receive feedback. Awareness of others' judgments can make teens feel self-conscious about their looks. Set rules for your teen's Internet use and talk about what she's posting and viewing.

- Discuss self-image.

Offer reassurance that healthy body shapes vary. Ask her what she likes about herself and explain what you like about her, too. Your accep-

tance staying physically active. Discourage family and friends from using hurtful nicknames and joking about people who are overweight.

OTHER STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE A HEALTHY BODY IMAGE

In addition to talking to your daughter about a healthy body image, you might:

- Team up with your family doctor.

Your family doctor can help your daughter set realistic goals for BMI and weight based on her personal weight history and overall health.

- Help establish healthy eating habits.

Offer healthy meals and snacks.

- Counter negative media messages.

Expose your daughter to women who are famous for their achievements—not their appearance. For example, read books or watch movies about inspiring women.

- Praise achievements.

Help your daughter value what she does, rather than what she looks like. Look for opportunities to praise her efforts, skills and achievements.

- Promote physical activity.

Participating in sports and other physical activities—particularly those that don't emphasize a particular weight or body shape—can help promote good self-esteem and a positive body image.

- Encourage positive friendships.

Friends who accept and support your teen can be a healthy influence.

- Set a good example.

Remind your daughter that you exercise and eat a healthy diet for your health, not just to look a certain way. Also think about what you read and watch as well as the products you buy and the message your choices send.

WHEN TO CONSULT A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER

If your daughter is struggling with a negative body image, consider professional counseling. Additional support might give your daughter the tools she needs to counter social pressure and feel good about her body.

Caption: Four teenage girls sitting on a bench and smiling in the school campus. (Mark Hunt/Dreamstime/TNS)

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Tuning up for basketball

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- Back
- Abdominals
- Legs

Allow 48 to 72 hours between strength sessions



Cardio 6-10 minutes or more

Bicycling, running, swimming, stair climbing or cross-country skiing
(On a gym machine or outdoors)



Source: Bally Fitness

Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap
Tribune News Service

Life & Style

TV holiday joy means 'Wonderful Life,' Reba, romance, Santa

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In need of a jolt of holiday joy? Or a comforting spot of romance or silliness or spirituality?

Television has you covered. There are classic old movies ("It's a Wonderful Life") and a sleigh full of new wannabes; Christmas carols galore; the majesty of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir; and, for New Year's Eve homebodies, Man-

hattan's Times Square ball drop among the possibilities.

Here are some of the highlights to consider (all times EST):

MOVIES:

■ "The Christmas Chronicles," streaming now on Netflix. A scheme by a sister and brother (Darby Camp, Judah Lewis) to get videotape of Santa (Kurt Russell) in ac-

tion turns into a wild Christmas Eve. Oliver Hudson and Kimberly Williams-Paisley also star.

■ "Christmas at Pemberley Manor," 10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, Hallmark. New York party planner Elizabeth Bennett (Jessica Lowndes) finds her plans for a small town's holiday festival threatened by a billionaire (Michael Rady) lacking good cheer. But,

shades of Jane Austen, love may save the day.

"Merry Wishmas," 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2, TV One. A successful businesswoman (Tamela Mann) visits her South Carolina hometown for a break but becomes enmeshed in local drama. David Mann, Kim Fields and Towanda Braxton co-star.

"Life-Size 2," 9 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2, Freeform. Fran-



This image released by Netflix shows Kurt Russell in a scene from "The Christmas Chronicles," currently streaming on Netflix.

cia Raisa ("grown-ish") stars as Grace, the young CEO of a toy maker headed for financial trouble. But help is on the way, from a doll (Tyra Banks) magically brought to life.

■ "Holiday Inn," 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, Turner Classic Movies. Fred Astaire and Bing Crosby star in this 1942 classic as entertainers who compete in romance.

■ "Santa's Boots," 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, Lifetime. Holly (Megan Hilty) is trying to rescue her family's department store and solve the mystery of the handsome Santa (Noah Mills) who bolted, leaving only a boot.

■ "It's a Wonderful Life," 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 24, NBC. Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed star in Frank Capra's

1947 fable about appreciating one's life, whatever path it takes. Lionel Barrymore's Mr. Potter and Henry Travers' Clarence the angel are part of the journey.

STOCKING STUFFERS

■ "Great Performances: Irving Berlin's Holiday Inn—The Broadway Musical," 8:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 30, PBS. A stage adaptation of the 1942 movie features "White Christmas" and more of Berlin's score.

■ "A Charlie Brown Christmas," 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6, ABC. Charles M. Schulz's timeless crew is back in the 1965 special that finds Charlie Brown confronting the materialism of Christmas with the help of Linus and, less successfully, Lucy.

Kid Rock booted from leading Tx. parade after profane TV remarks

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Kid Rock's profane comments on live TV have gotten him booted from leading the Nashville Christmas Parade.

Instead, parade organizers have invited James Shaw Jr., the man hailed as a community hero for wrestling a gun away from the shooter during a Nashville Waffle House shooting in April that killed four people and injured four others.

On Friday morning, Kid Rock used an expletive to describe Joy Behar during an interview Friday on "Fox & Friends." He did the interview from his bar in Nashville, where he swigged bourbon while tending bar on camera and said he had been drinking coffee and Irish cream liqueur.

"God forbid you say something a little wrong; you're racist, homophobic, Islamophobic, this that and the other. People need to calm down, get

a little less politically correct," Kid Rock said. "And I would say, you know, love everybody. Except, I'd say screw that Joy Behar (expletive)."

Multiple "Fox & Friends" personalities apologized on air afterward. Kid Rock apologized for the language, but "not the sentiment."

Several parade organizers announced Friday evening that the parade will no longer feature Kid Rock, who had volunteered to be the grand marshal. Shaw, who has become a national figure after his heroics in the spring, has accepted the invitation, according to a spokesman for the group of organizers.

"Parade organizers feel that the grand marshal should personify the spirit of the Nashville community," read the statement from organizers Piedmont Natural Gas, Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt, and Tennessee Holiday Productions.

Kinisou Chapur - Si Yu'us Ma'ase - Olomwaay - Thank you



Julita Iorita Suda Kapileo

Our family is blessed with an abundance of relatives, friends and acquaintances who unselfishly visited, called or sent heartfelt messages of condolences upon hearing of Julita's passing.

We have much to be thankful for, and we first give thanks to the Almighty for the gift of a loving wife, mother, sister and aunt.

We appreciate the spiritual guidance and prayers from Rev. Fr. Keiwo William, Rev. Fr. Leo Neil Bullos, OAR, Nuuanu Memorial Park & Mortuary, Hawaii Marianas Referral Services and Borja Funeral Home.

Julita received courteous and professional medical treatment and care from the staff of Queens Medical Center in Hawaii. We thank them for all their caring hands and endless patience.

We are comforted by and grateful to all who prayed with us, imploring the Lord of grace, blessings and mercy. Our sincere appreciation to our Techa, Edwina Taitano-Ngotel, for praying the Rosary from the day of Julita's passing to the day we laid her to rest. We also thank the Chuukese Family Choirs in Hawaii and Saipan, Angelic Choir, Santa Remedios Mystic Voices Youth Choir and those who sang throughout the night of the wake.

To everyone, including our friends and relatives who traveled to be with us,

Kinisou Chapur yan Un Dangkulu na Agradesimiento

For your presence and prayers, and for all your contributions and words of encouragement. May God Bless Us All.

The Family

Sales for Michelle Obama memoir top 2 million copies

Police review: No evidence of a crime in Casey Kasem's death

GIG HARBOR, Wash. (AP)—Police found no evidence of wrongdoing after investigating allegations that relatives of radio personality Casey Kasem were responsible for his 2014 death but will now turn the matter over to prosecutors, officials in Washington state said Friday.

The administrative investigation didn't find evidence of a crime, said Gig Harbor Police Chief Kelly Busey. He said he would forward the case to Pierce County prosecutors for review.

The longtime "American Top 40" host had a form of dementia and a severe bed-sore when died at age 82 at a hospital in Gig Harbor, southwest of Seattle.

Gig Harbor police opened their investigation last month after Kasem's wife, former actress Jean Kasem, submitted a private investigator's report claiming three of Casey Kasem's children from a previous marriage were responsible for the radio host's death.

Jean Kasem has not commented; The Associated Press has left an email message with her attorney.

It's the latest development in years of legal wrangling between Jean Kasem and her three stepchildren. The groups fought over visitation access to Casey Kasem before



Kasem

his death, with his daughter Kerri Kasem assuming control of his medical care.

Jean Kasem, who appeared on "Cheers," was married to the announcer for more than 30 years but was stripped of control over his medical care in the final days of his life. He died in June 2014 in Gig Harbor, where his wife had taken him after checking him out of a Los Angeles-area medical facility where he was receiving round-the-clock care.

Jean Kasem, 64, has contended her decision to move her husband to Washington state was made to protect his privacy.

'Stop this chaos:' Weinstein lawyer urges sex case dismissal

NEW YORK (AP)—In the latest push to have Harvey Weinstein's sexual assault case thrown out, the movie producer's lawyer said Thursday that a woman accusing him of a 2013 rape pressured a friend to corroborate her account, but that the friend wouldn't "make up a story."

The friend told defense investigators that Weinstein and the rape accuser had been "hooking up" consensually for a long time and that she never heard the accuser say anything bad about him until last year, lawyer Benjamin Brafman said in a court filing. The friend was not identified in court papers.

Weinstein's side also believes police set up a phone call between the film producer and one of his accusers shortly before his arrest, but the operation failed to produce incriminating evidence.

"The only reasonably prudent decision would be to stop this chaos now," Brafman wrote, urging Judge James Burke to dismiss the case at a Dec. 20 court hearing.

The Manhattan District Attorney's office declined to comment.

In a filing last week, prosecutors said there was "ample evidence" to move forward and that Brafman was trying to create a "public circus" with an earlier demand that police investigators be questioned in court about alleged misconduct that has roiled the case.

Prosecutors dropped part of the case in October after evidence surfaced that a detective coached a witness.

Three of the five remaining charges stem from the allegations at the heart of Brafman's latest filing, that Weinstein raped a woman in a hotel room in March 2013. The two other

charges allege that Weinstein forcibly performed oral sex on another woman in 2006 at his Manhattan apartment.

Brafman said the rape accuser called the friend out of the blue after they hadn't spoken since a falling-out two years before. She discussed the alleged assault and asked for the friend's help, "presumably so as to serve as a prompt outcry witness," Brafman wrote.

An "outcry witness" is a term for the first person or people who were told about an alleged attack. Such testimony can be powerful in a sexual assault case.

The friend responded that she'd never been told about the allegation and didn't want to get involved, according to the filing. But sometime after, a New York City police detective approached her about the matter.

NEW YORK (AP)—Michelle Obama's "Becoming" is selling at a pace rarely seen for a political memoir, or any nonfiction book.

Combined hardcover, e-book and audio sales in the U.S. and Canada topped 2 million copies in the first 15 days, Crown Publishing announced

Friday. By comparison, former first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's memoir "Living History" needed a month to sell 1 million copies. Former President George W. Bush's "Decision Points" took several weeks to reach 2 million. Former President Bill Clinton's "My Life" quickly sold 1 mil-

lion copies but took far longer to hit 2 million.

"Becoming," which came out Nov. 13, now has 3.4 million hardcover copies in print. The former first lady is in the midst of a promotional tour, with guests including Oprah Winfrey and Reese Witherspoon.

Neil deGrasse Tyson denies sexual misconduct allegations

NEW YORK (AP)—Renowned astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson says he will cooperate fully with an "impartial investigation" into allegations of sexual misconduct that have been leveled against him.

Patheos.com recently published accounts from two women who say that Tyson

behaved in a sexually inappropriate manner toward them. Tyson was host of "Cosmos: Possible Worlds" on Fox in 2014 and a new edition of the series was to air on National Geographic next year.

In a Facebook post Saturday, Tyson denied an accusation that he groped a woman and he denied that he made

sexual advances toward a production assistant when he invited her to share wine and cheese at his home. He apologized for making the production assistant feel uncomfortable.

Fox and National Geographic Networks have said they will conduct a thorough investigation.

Nick Jonas, Priyanka Chopra post wedding on social media

NEW YORK (AP)—Nick Jonas and Priyanka Chopra posted photos of their wedding celebration Saturday amid reports that the couple had wed after a four-month courtship.

While the couple didn't say they were officially married—Indian weddings are typically

dayslong affairs—they both posted festive pictures of themselves on social media and talked about the work they had put into planning the wedding.

Representatives for the entertainers didn't immediately return emails seeking comment.

The couple announced their engagement in August. It is the first marriage for the 36-year-old Chopra and the 26-year-old Jonas.

The couple had been posting social-media photos of themselves among family and friends in India for more than a week.



In this Friday, Nov. 30, 2018 handout photo released by Raindrop Media, Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas celebrate during a mehendi ceremony, a day before their wedding, at Umaid Bhawan in Jodhpur, India. AP

Parents cancel holiday dinners when kids won't bury hatchet

DEAR ABBY: The holiday season is here, with the traditional family dinner get-togethers. Our problem is, our two children (ages 27 and 29) don't like each other and rarely have contact during the year. This creates such stressful holiday meals that my wife and I would prefer to simply not have them.

What words should we use to explain to both of them that we will no longer host holiday family dinners in the future? The conundrum arises if one of them says, "Well, I can come for Thanksgiving, so 'Jesse' can come for Christmas," which divides us in a way that is unacceptable. Although we have asked them to work out their issues, they have made no progress. Your advice?

DAD STRESSED BY THE HOLIDAYS

DEAR DAD: Your "children" are adults and should be able to bury their differences two nights out of the year for your sake. If one makes that suggestion, your response should be: "No. It would only remind us that half our family is missing, which would sadden us on what's supposed to be a happy occasion. That's why your mother and I have decided to make other plans instead."

DEAR ABBY: I was visiting a neighbor whose son and daughter-in-law were also visiting. They have two daughters,

ages 9 and 7. While I was there her son took the girls into the bathroom and gave them baths. I was shocked. The mom said, "That's HIS job!"

Abby, I could understand if they were toddlers, but by that age, they should be able to bathe themselves. When I asked her why, she said, "They play too much." Is this unusual? The grandmother -- my neighbor -- confided later that it made her uncomfortable, too, and said she has hinted to them both that the girls need privacy. What should we do or say, or is it none of our business?

CONFUSED IN ALABAMA

DEAR CONFUSED: By the ages of 7 and 9, the girls should not only be capable of bathing themselves, but also be able to comprehend when either parent says, "You're splashing around too much. Cut out the funny business!" The parents should act only as monitors. While I don't think it's your place to say anything, I do think the grandmother should.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 64-year-old man who has decided to donate my body to science after I pass. Would it be helpful to write/have a bio that includes some of my medical history? I have broken my left arm twice and my little finger, which required surgery. Also, I broke my right wrist, which required surgery, including five temporary metal pins.

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

I am a Type 2 diabetic and have scars on my face from injuries from when I was a kid to adulthood. I'm not interested in writing a book but thought it might be helpful after I die for the medical institution. What do you think?

CURIOUS IN FORT WORTH

DEAR CURIOUS: You are very thoughtful. However, it might be more fun for the medical students to discover these "surprises" for themselves.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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Pistons beat Warriors, spoil Curry's return



DETROIT (AP)—Golden State got Stephen Curry back on Saturday night.

Even that wasn't enough for the Warriors against Detroit's Blake Griffin and Andre Drummond.

Griffin scored 26 points and Drummond added 16 points and 19 rebounds as the Pistons extended their winning streak to five games with a 111-102 victory over the Warriors.

"That's obviously a great win," Griffin said. "You could tell by the crowd and the atmosphere tonight that we were facing a big team, and we protected our home floor."

Drummond finished with eight offensive boards.

"It is so tough to play Andre, because when they get some penetration, the bigs normally try to help, but if you take your body off him for a second, he's going to get the rebound," Kevin Durant said.

Detroit had six players score in double figures, including reserves Stanley Johnson and Ish Smith.

"Our guys understand their roles and they are accepting the role and being the most valuable player they can in that role," Pistons coach Dwane Casey said. "We're playing with energy and we were able to beat the champs on a night when we only shot 44 percent and 34 percent from the line."

"We know we can play better than this."

Curry returned after missing 11 games with a groin strain and scored 27 points on 10-of-



AP
Detroit Pistons forward Stanley Johnson (7) leaps over Golden State Warriors forward Kevin Durant (35) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, Dec. 1, 2018, in Detroit.

after missing three with a sore hamstring.

Zach LaVine had 29 points for the Bulls.

Celtics 118, Timberwolves 109

In Minneapolis, Gordon Hayward had a season-high 30 points and added nine rebounds and eight assists, helping Boston beat Minnesota for its third straight victory.

Hayward scored 11 of Boston's final 15 points over the last 3 1/2 minutes of the game and made four of five shots from 3-point range. Kyrie Irving pitched in 21 points and nine assists, Jayson Tatum added 19 points and nine rebounds, and Marcus Morris had 16 points on 4-for-7 shooting from 3-point range for the Celtics. They lost eight of 12 games before starting their streak.

Derrick Rose scored 26 points for the Timberwolves.

Wizards 102, Nets 88

In Washington, John Wall scored 30 points, Bradley Beal added 22 and Washington handed Brooklyn its sixth straight loss.

Markieff Morris rebounded from a 1-for-10 shooting night Friday in a loss at Philadelphia to score 20 points on 9-for-12 shooting. He had 15 points in the fourth quarter.

Allen Crabbe led Brooklyn with 14 points. The losing streak is the Nets' longest since an eight-game skid in February.

Knicks 136, Bucks 134, OT

In New York, Emmanuel Mudiay scored 28 points and New York outlasted Milwaukee in overtime.

Rookie forward Kevin Knox had a career-high 26 points, and Damyean Dotson and Tim Hardaway Jr. added 21 points each. Giannis Antetokounmpo had 33 points and 19 rebounds for Milwaukee.

Kings 111, Pacers 110

In Sacramento, Willie Cauley-Stein scored on a putback dunk with 16.1 seconds left and Sacramento held on to beat Indiana.

Bogdan Bogdanovic had 20 points and Cauley-Stein finished with 17 points and 13 rebounds to help the Kings end a four-game losing streak to the Pacers. Buddy Hield added 18 points, five rebounds and four assists.

21 shooting, including 20 in the second half. Curry went 3 of 9 from 3-point range.

"It felt good to be back out there, but in the first half, I was going 100 miles an hour without my timing being back," he said. "In the second half, I played a lot closer to where I want to be. The shots started falling and I was aggressive without making stupid plays."

Golden State coach Steve Kerr blamed himself for the defeat, which saw the Pis-

tons finish with 12 3-pointers and 14 offensive rebounds to Golden State's six and eight, respectively.

"This has to go down as one of the worst games I've ever coached," he said. "We got into some foul trouble early, and I was searching for a lineup that could match up with Blake and Andre, and I never gave us an effective group. We weren't shooting 3s or getting to the glass."

Durant scored 28 points

for Golden State, and Klay Thompson added 21.

"I think our spacing is screwed up, and we aren't playing with enough urgency," Durant said. "None of that is on coach. That's our fault."

Curry missed his first three shots, all 3-pointers, but drove to the basket for a three-point play on the first possession of the second quarter.

Detroit led by as many as 11 points in the second and led 54-46 at halftime. Stanley

Johnson had 13 points off the bench for the Pistons, while Thompson and Durant combined for 25 for Golden State. Curry had seven on 2-of-9 shooting, missing all five 3-pointers.

"We played a terrible first half, and that pretty much summed up the night," Curry said. "They are playing really well and we didn't do anything to take them out of their comfort zone."

Raptors 106, Cavaliers 95

In Cleveland, Kawhi Leonard scored 34 points, Fred VanVleet added 15 and Toronto won its eighth straight game despite missing All-Star guard Kyle Lowry.

Danny Green and Pascal Siakam added 15 apiece to help the Raptors improve the NBA's best record to 20-4, reaching the 20-win mark quicker than at any time in their history. Toronto is a league-best 10-2 on the road.

Lowry missed his first game this season with an unspecified back injury. Raptors coach Nick Nurse didn't provide any details about Lowry's back other than to say it flared up earlier in the day.

Rockets 121, Bulls 105

In Houston, James Harden made six 3-pointers and scored 30 points to help Houston beat Chicago.

Clint Capela added 18 points and 15 rebounds, and Chris Paul had 12 points and tied a season high with 13 assists in his second game back

3-way tie for lead in Bahamas; Woods at the bottom

BAHAMAS (AP)—Tony Finau had never seen Albany Golf Club until the pro-am at the Hero World Challenge, and one aspect of the course caught his eye immediately.

"When I'm playing well, I feel like I can score on any golf course, especially a course that has five par 5s," Finau said.

He made birdie on four of them Saturday, leading him to a 5-under 67 that gave him a share of the lead with Henrik Stenson and Jon Rahm and set up a wide-open conclusion that could feature more than half the 18-man field.

The tournament host is not among them.

Tiger Woods took three shots from just off the green at the par-5 third hole—chipping is tough on everyone at Albany—for a double bogey and a ragged start that never got much better until a few late birdies salvaged a 72.

He was in last place, 11

shots out of the lead.

"It's definitely not alarming, for sure," said Woods, in his first 72-hole event since winning the Tour Championship. "I just haven't played clean."

Stenson and Rahm each had a 3-under 69 to join Finau at 13-under 203.

Stenson and Finau are going for their first victory of the year, even though this holiday event is not attached to any tour and is considered unofficial except for the world ranking points, which are more than four of the domestic events in the fall on the PGA Tour.

Finau did everything right except win this year, including his first Ryder Cup appearance. Stenson has won at least once around the world in five of the last six years.

Winning is always nice," said Stenson, a runner-up to Hideki Maruyama two years ago in the Bahamas. "It never

gets old no matter how big or small the tournament. You can't say that this is a small tournament given the field. Who you're playing against is obviously going to give you a nice boost if you managed to win it."

Gary Woodland, who was over par toward the end of his opening round, had a 67 and suddenly is only two shots behind. Rickie Fowler also had a 67, and suddenly the defending champion is back in the mix at three shots behind.

Fowler's name was mentioned more than once Saturday. A year ago, he started seven shots behind and closed with a tournament-best 61 to win by four.

"If you get wind all day, you don't expect people to low," Rahm said. "But I don't think they did last year, and Rickie shot 11 under, right? I've kept saying it the same way. I think whoever plays



Cano to Mets in blockbuster trade with Mariners



NEW YORK
—Robinson Cano is heading back to the Big Apple.

The New York Mets and Seattle Mariners informed their players Saturday that a trade has been completed that will send the All-Star second baseman and closer Edwin Diaz to the Mets for veterans OF Jay Bruce, RHP Anthony Swarzak and three prospects, a high-ranking official directly involved in the trade confirmed.

The Mets also will receive \$20 million from the Mariners, who in return also got prospects OF Jarred Kelenic, RHP Justin Dunn and RHP Gerson Bautista. Considering they also shed \$38 million in salary from Bruce and Swarzak, they will be on the hook for \$63 million over the next five years to Cano instead of \$120 million.

The official was not authorized to speak publicly because the deal has not been announced by either team.

The deal hinges on players passing physicals.

With the trade, the Mets are signaling they are all in to



AP
The Seattle Mariners' Robinson Cano eyes to catch the ball hit by Houston Astros second baseman Yuli Gurriel during the sixth inning of a baseball game, Monday, Aug. 20, 2018, in Seattle.

after the 2013 season.

Diaz, 24, has blossomed into one of the most dominant closers in baseball and his 57 saves in 2018 tied for the second-most in baseball history. The right-hander made 73 appearances, striking out 124 in 73 ⅓ innings.

Kelenic was the No. 6 overall pick in this year's draft, an outfielder from Wisconsin. The 19-year-old hit .286 in his first professional season and is No. 62 in MLB.com's top 100 prospects.

Bruce has two years and \$28 million remaining on the three-year deal he signed with the Mets last winter. The 31-year-old only played 94 games in 2018 but hit 36 homers with 101 RBI in 2017.

Swarzak signed a two-year deal with the Mets last winter, and is due \$8.5 million in 2019. Injuries limited the right-hander to 29 games in his lone season with the Mets.

win in 2019, under new general manager Brodie Van Wagenen. They still are continu-

ing their search for a catcher, bullpen help and potentially a third baseman.

Cano, who was suspended 80 games for violating MLB's drug policy last sea-

son, spent the first nine years of his career in New York with the Yankees before signing a 10-year, \$240 million deal with the Mariners

THE BETTER

From Page 24

Mix+Match, 15-8, and Jam, 21-11, to duel Jssakk for the second and last finals seat. Dr. Pepper went on to frustrate Jssakk in its second attempt to move into the championship game after cruising to a 21-11 win.

Meanwhile, birthday boy, Toves, scored the match point for the MCS Knights after hitting a booming spike in their 21-19 triumph against The Bump. Before Toves' winning hit, Steele broke the last deadlock in the match with his serve.

With Steele and Toves holding their ground against the Matthew Berline-led The Bump, the MCS Knights needed only one game to beat their opponents in the finals. The MCS Knights were undefeated going into the championship game thus they earned a twice-to-bet advantage, while The Bump, which also had Dylan Mister, Kat Saures and Hye Jin Elliot on its roster, fought its way out of the loser's bracket to move into the finals.

In the early rounds, the MCS Knights won over Aycho and The Bump to take the first finals seat. Aycho, on the other hand remained in contention after eliminating SCS and The Asians before bowing to The Bump in the battle for the last finals ticket. Saipan Geckos was the other team entered in the U14 division of the tournament organized by the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association.

NMIVA president Laurie



MCS Knights' Merrick Toves leaps to score the match point in their 21-19 win over The Bump in the co-ed U14 division of the Hope For Tomorrow Yutu Relief Fundraiser Beach Volleyball Tournament held at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand courts last Saturday.

Peterka thanked Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, Triple J Motors, Saipan, Triple J Five Star Wholesale, Herman's Modern Bakery, Pacific Trading Co., Marianas Young Professionals, Seatouch-Saipan, and all the volunteers, includ-

ing NMIVA's junior team for their support in the fundraiser. Nearly \$900 was raised in the weekend event, while NMIVA also collected three boxes of relief goods from players and other donors.

"We can not do all this work

without our community partners. Our volunteers are priceless. Our junior team pretty much ran the event today and it's a first so we're proud of them and looking forward to having them back for our next competition," Peterka said.

Nats have done work, but Harper looms over offseason

WASHINGTON (AP)—Everywhere Washington Nationals first baseman Ryan Zimmerman goes these days, the same topic arises: What is going to happen with free agent outfielder Bryce Harper?

"As if they think—I guess because I've been here forever—I know all the answers to everything," Zimmerman said Saturday at Nationals Park during the club's annual fan festival. "Yeah, you get that question quite a bit."

As much as Washington general manager Mike Rizzo already has done to try to improve a roster that flopped in 2018, that is the essential issue that is going to loom over the offseason until it's resolved.

Harper was drafted No. 1 overall by the Nationals in 2010, made his major league debut as a teen, won the NL Rookie of the Year award in 2012, was a unanimous selection as NL MVP in 2015—and now could be gone for good at age 26.

"Whatever team he's on is a better team. He's one of the better players in the game. A lot of us would love to have him back here. I don't think there's anyone that wouldn't like to have him back," Zimmerman said. "But there's a lot of different factors that go

into that. It's a complicated situation."

Washington, which went 82-80 and missed the playoffs, made a late-season offer to Harper that was not accepted, which was no surprise.

"They haven't showed their hand either way, as far as what their timeline is," Rizzo said. "I think their timeline is: When they get the deal they feel comfortable with, I think they're going to move. I don't think there's anything urgency on their part. I think when they get something they like, it'll probably happen."

Until then, Rizzo is making moves to shore up his team.

That doesn't include the outfield, though: The Nationals already have Juan Soto, who was the runner-up for NL Rookie of the Year, along with Adam Eaton, top prospect Victor Robles and Michael A. Taylor.

As for Harper's future, Robles said: "Everyone asks about that. A lot."

Rizzo has added a pair of catchers, trading with the Cleveland Indians for AL All-Star Yan Gomes on Friday without relinquishing a top prospect and signing free agent Kurt Suzuki to a \$10 million, two-year deal last week.



Pistons beat
Warriors, spoil
Curry's return

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Better Team, MCS Knights triumph



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Better Team and MCS Knights were unscathed in last Saturday's Hope For Tomorrow Yutu Relief Fundraiser Beach Volleyball Tournament at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand courts to rule their respective divisions.

The MCS Knights, who are made up of Richard Steele, Merriek Toves, Jeremiah Diaz, cousins Jennalyn and Kaia Travilla, and Fiona Bucalig, clinched the co-ed U14 age group championship. The Better Team, on the other hand, bagged the co-ed U18 division title with Bailey Spaeth, Steven Goodwin, Dayna Macaranas, and Angela Jun suiting up for the champion team.

The Better Team won the division crown after pulling off a come-from-behind 21-18 victory over Dr. Pepper, which had Sunjoon Tenorio, A.J. Hudkins, Louisa Hahn, and Teeon Camacho as players. The Better Team faced a 12-16 deficit before rallying late in the finals behind the three straight points of Goodwin.



Goodwin served with the match tied for the last time, 18-all, and he dropped the ball to the unguarded backline to hand The Better Team the lead. He went for his second serve and the ball appeared to be hitting the net and not going over before it finally crossed, catching Dr. Pepper's Hahn and Tenorio off guard and moving The Better Team within a point from clinching the title. The same thing happened in Goodwin's third serve, as his over hand hit had enough spin to climb over the net and drop in front of an unsuspecting Dr. Pepper player.

Goodwin and company finished off Dr. Pepper, which came from the loser's bracket to challenge The Better Team in the finals. The Better Team earlier defeated Sere-vivors,

MCS Knights' Richard Steele, left, and The Bump's Matthew Berlin battle in the net during their title game in the co-ed U14 division of the Hope For Tomorrow Yutu Relief Fundraiser Beach Volleyball Tournament held at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand courts last Saturday.



The Better Team's Steven Goodwin hits the ball, while Dr. Pepper's Sunjoon Tenorio attempts to block him during their match in the co-ed U18 division finals.

Jam, and Dr. Pepper in the 15-team, double-elimination preliminary games to advance to the semifinals. The Better Team then extended its streak with a 21-16 victory over Jssakk to notch the

first finals berth.

Jssakk fell to the loser's bracket along with Dr. Pepper with the latter needing to beat

See **THE BETTER** on
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3 CNMI swimmers off to world championships

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's small delegation to the 14th FINA World Championships in China left Saipan last Saturday morning.

Swimmers Nelson Batallones, Lennosuke Suzuki, and Jinju Thompson headed to Hangzhou and were accompanied by Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Association representative Colin Thompson, who will also serve as coach of the lean squad. The three swimmers will be competing in the short course (25 meters) tournament that will run from Dec. 11 to 16 at the Hangzhou Olympic and International Expo Center in the Zhejiang Province.

Batallones will be racing in the 50m and 100m butterfly events, while both Jinju and Suzuki are entered in the 100m and 200m freestyle swims. The lone female member of the team will be the first to see action in the world championships, as she races in the qualifying heat of the 200m freestyle event on Dec. 11. Jinju will also compete in the second day

of the meet, as she participates in the qualifiers for the 100m freestyle event.

The preliminary heats for the men's 200m freestyle is also scheduled for Dec. 12, while Lennosuke's second and last event—the 100m freestyle—will have its qualifiers on Dec. 15.

Batallones, on the other hand, will have his debut in the short course competition on Dec. 12 when he joins the preliminary heats in the 100m butterfly event. Then two days later, the Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan member will return to the pool to race in the 50m butterfly.

The tournament in China will be extra challenging for the three CNMI swimmers as they will compete there after having limited training sessions due to the closure of the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool and Super Typhoon Yutu, which struck Saipan and Tinian late last month.

Meanwhile, besides managing the three CNMI swimmers, Colin will attend the 5th FINA World Aquatics Convention that will be held on Dec. 8 to 10.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Lennosuke Suzuki, Colin and Jinju Thompson, and Nelson Batallones pose for a photo at the departure area of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport last Saturday before leaving for China to participate in the 14th FINA World Championships.